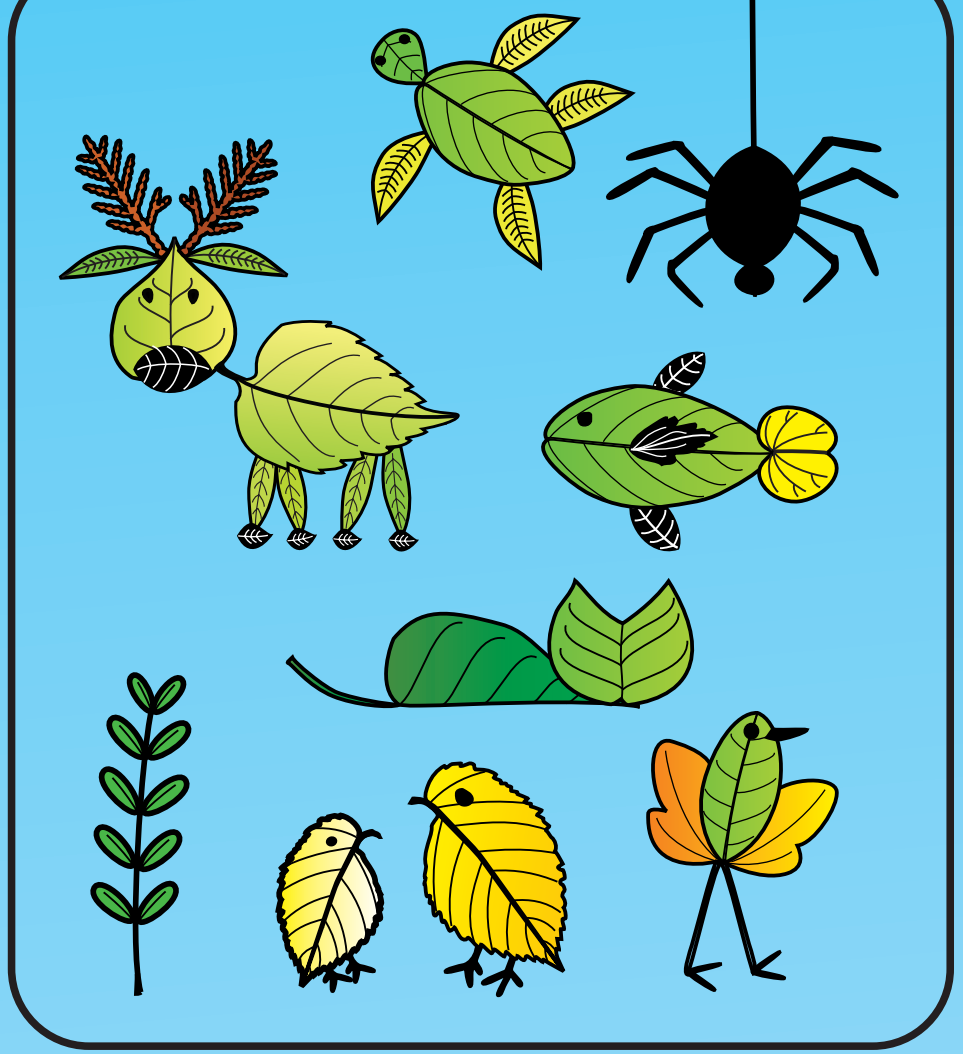
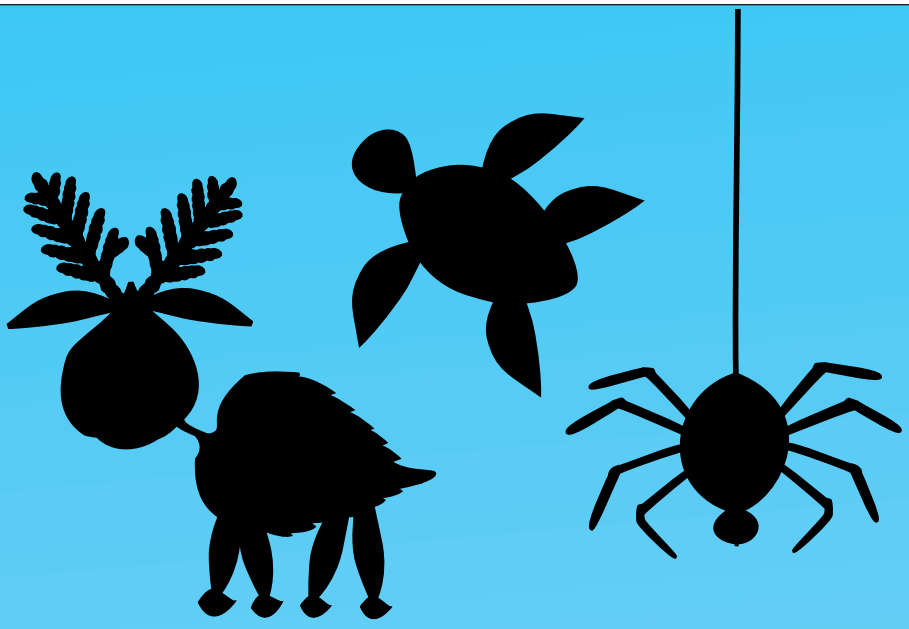
FUN WITH LEAVES

ARVIND GUPTA





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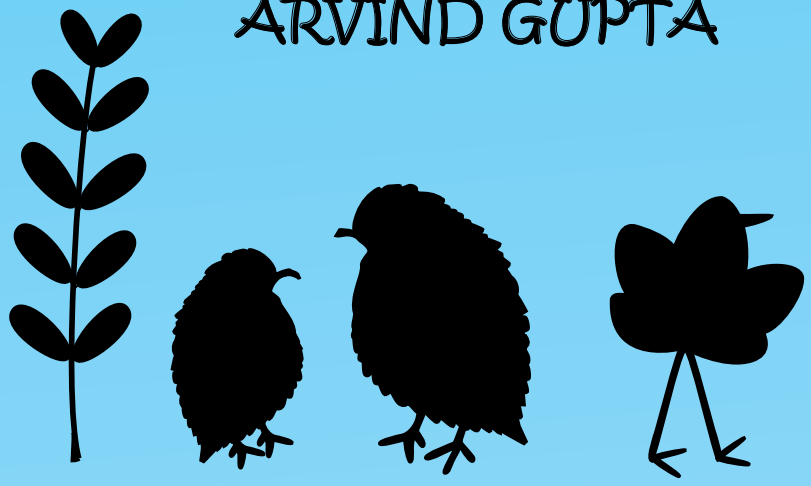


ARVIND GUPTA graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (1975) with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He has written 20 books on science activities, translated 150 books into Hindi and presented 125 films on science activities on *Doordarshan.*

His first book *Matchstick Models & Other Science Experiments* was translated into 12 Indian languages and sold over half a million copies. He has received several honours, including the inaugural *National Award for Science Popularization amongst Children* (1988), *Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT, Kanpur* (2000), *Indira Gandhi Award for Science Popularization* (2008) and the *Third World Academy of Science Award* (2010) for making science interesting for children.

Currently he works at IUCAA's Children's Science Centre, Pune, and shares his passion for books and toys through his popular website http://arvindguptatoys.com

VIDULA MHAISKAR has a PhD in Immunology from the Haffkine Institute, Mumbai. She has been working in IUCAA's Children's Science Centre, Pune for the past 8 years.

FUN WITH LEAVES

ARVIND GUPTA

ILLUSTRATIONS:
DR. VIDULA MHAISKAR

FUN WITH LEAVES

There are many kinds of trees
With lots and lots of different leaves
Some are broad some are thin
Some have faces with a chin

Have you seen leaves on trees
Dancing in the summer breeze
But have you ever seen how
Leaves pretend to be a cow

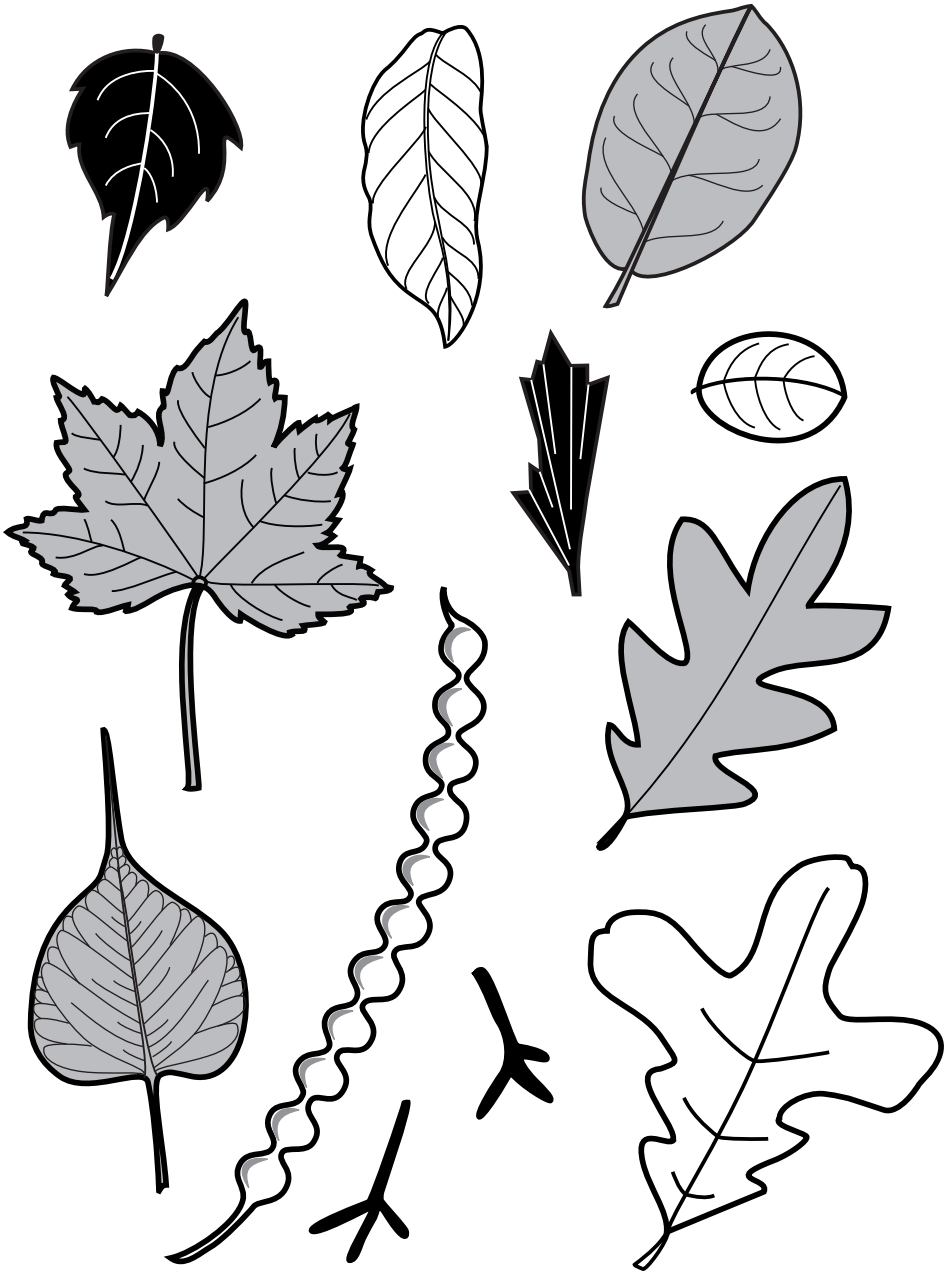
Stroke a leaf, feel its hair
Watch it turn into a bear
Hold it softly against your cheek
Don't be frightened if it squeaks

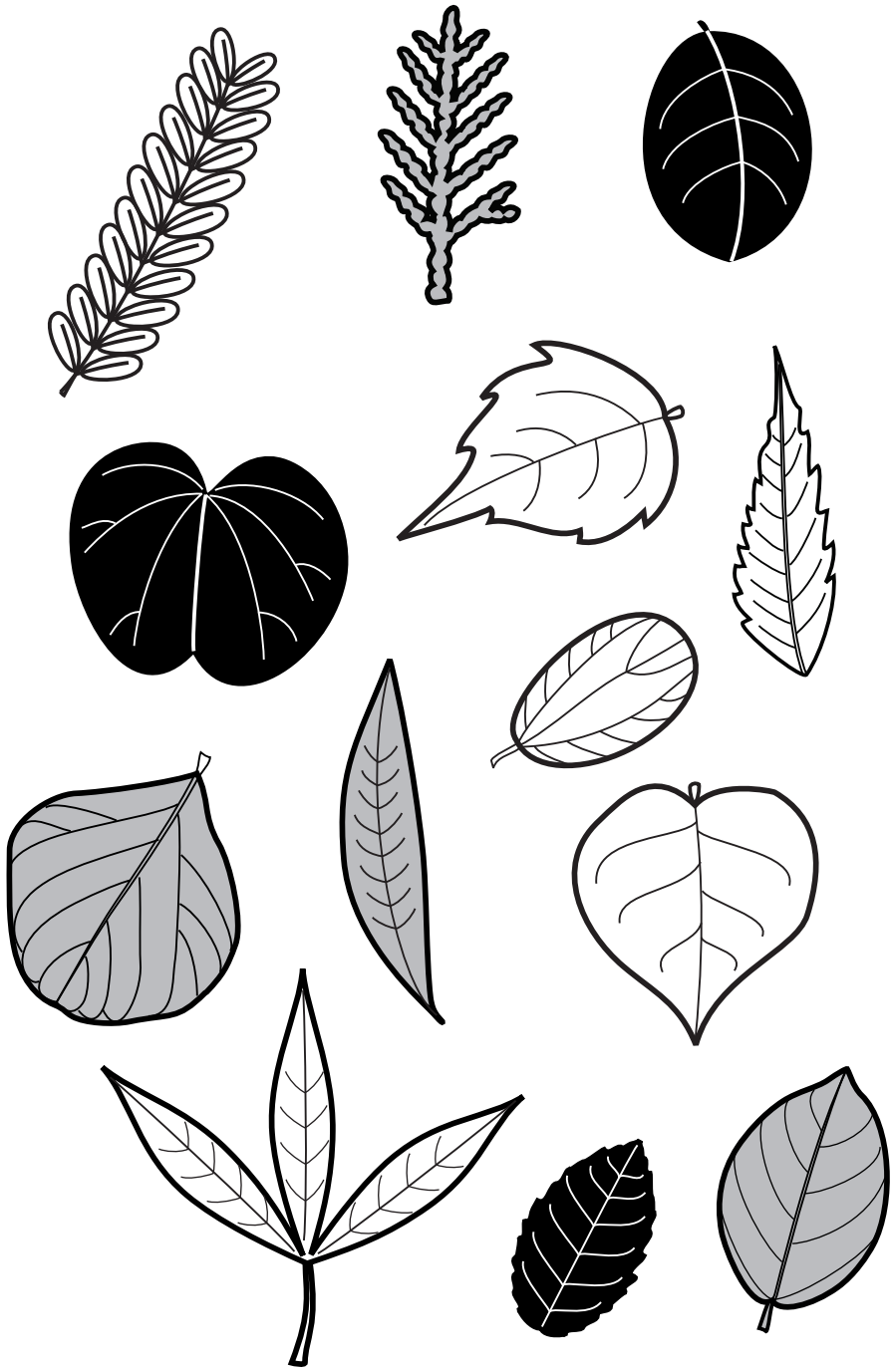
Press few leaves in a book
Once in a while sneak a look
See the green turn ochre to rust
Touch them gently if you must

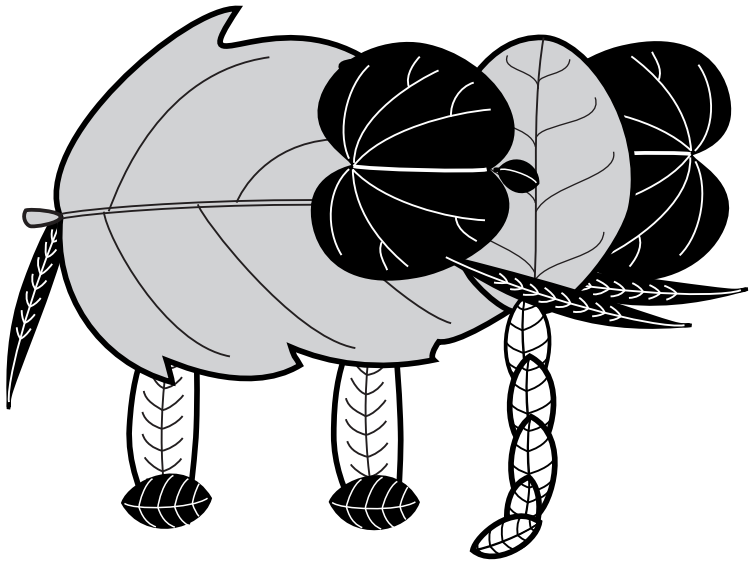
Peepal, Banyan, Mango, Rose
Each has a distinctive pose
One's a beak, another a claw
This a stomach, that a paw

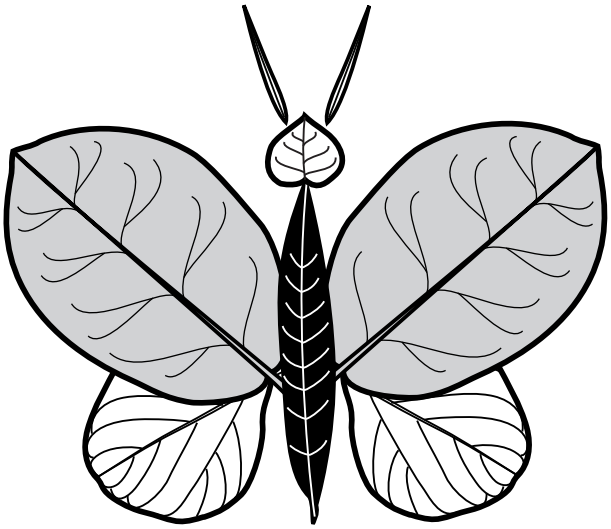
Stick them neatly with some glue
And after you have made a few
Go ahead, discover some more
How about trying a dinosaur?

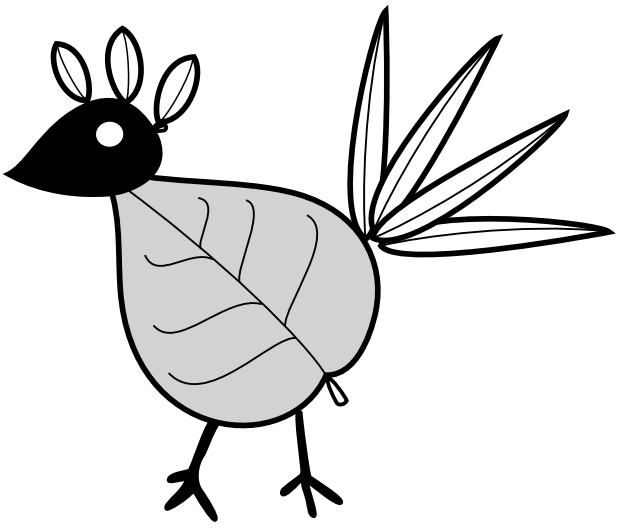
Library of Leaves

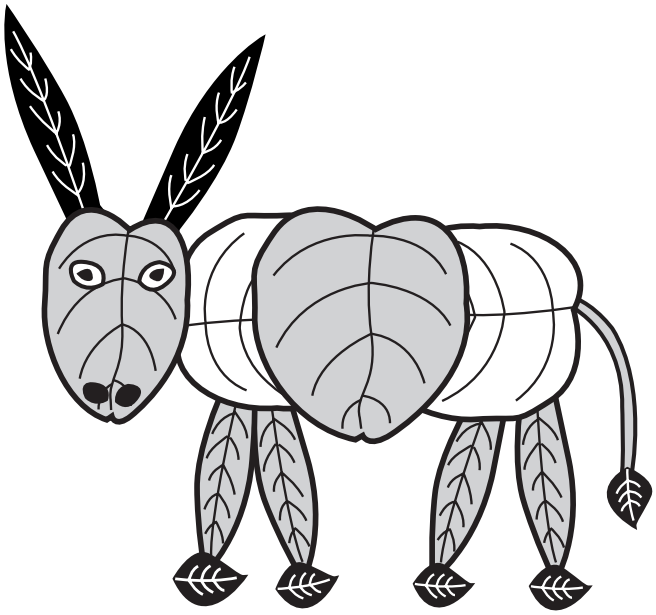


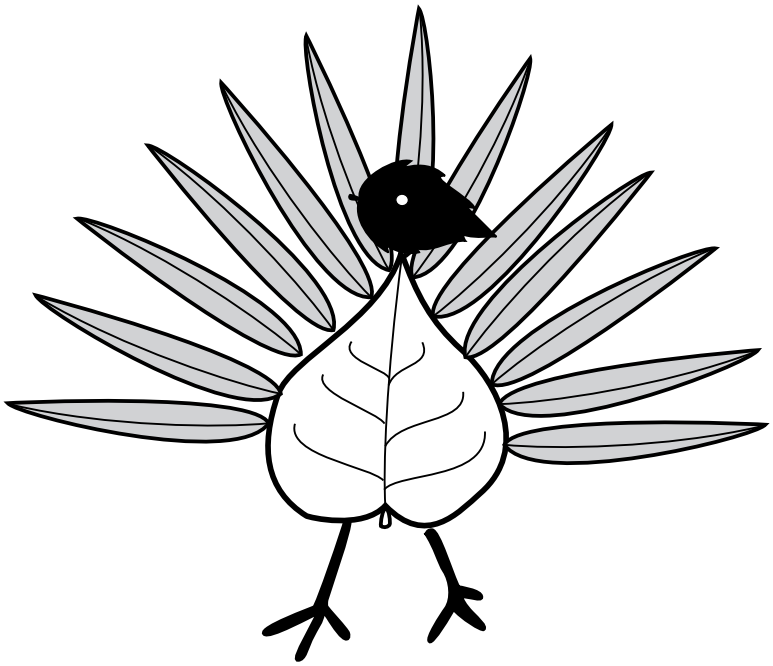


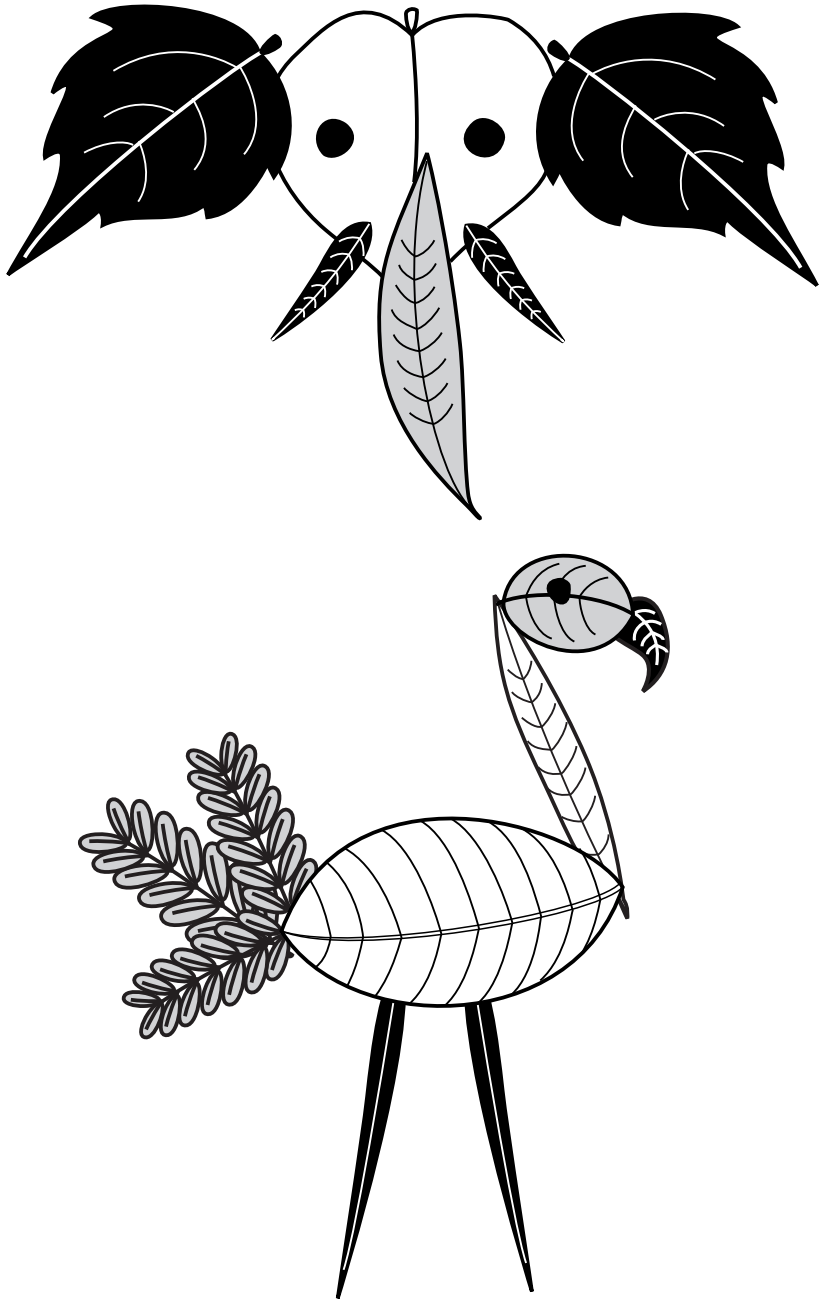


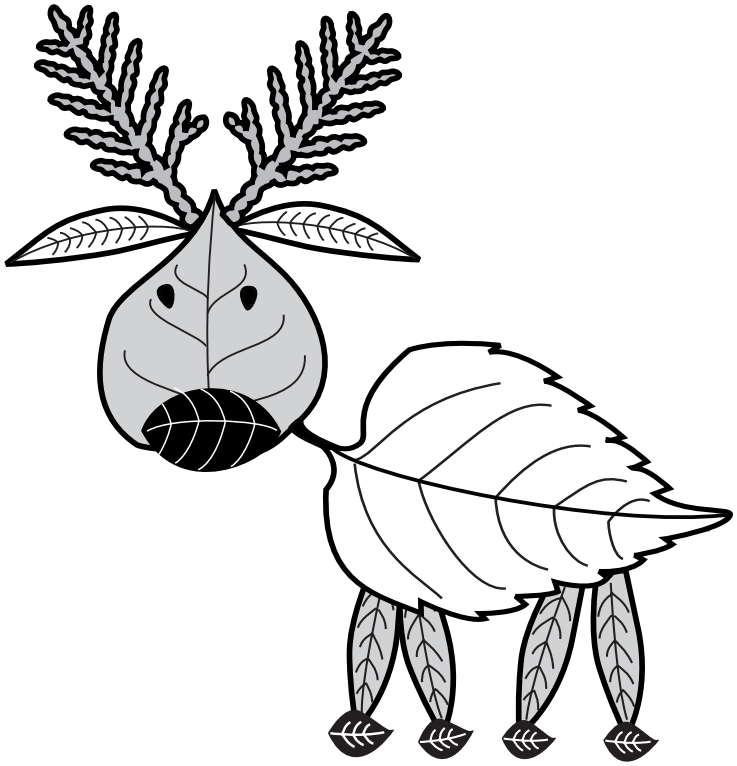


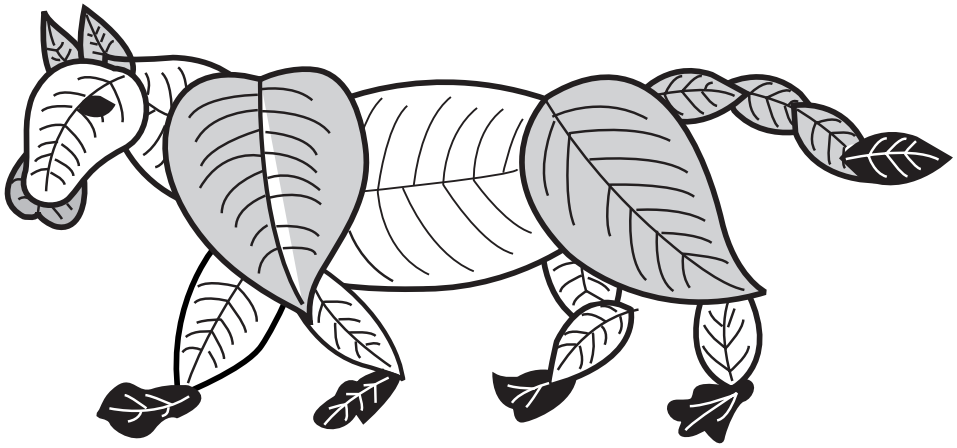


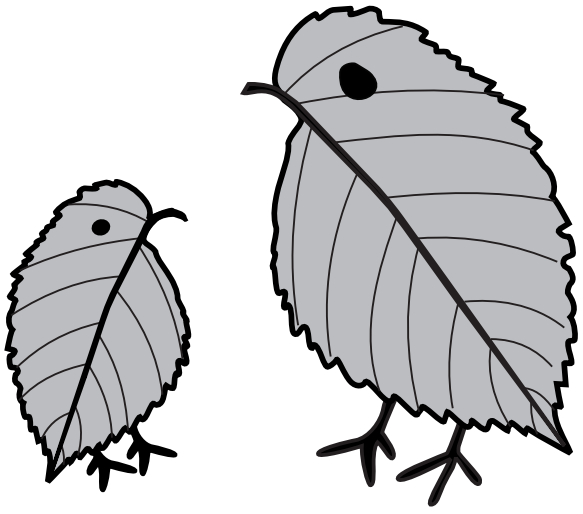


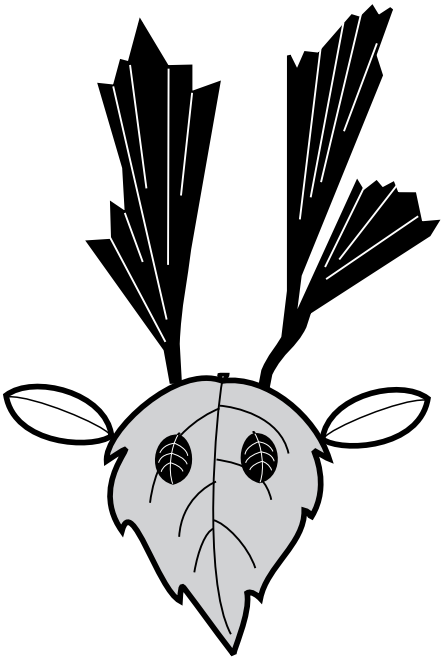


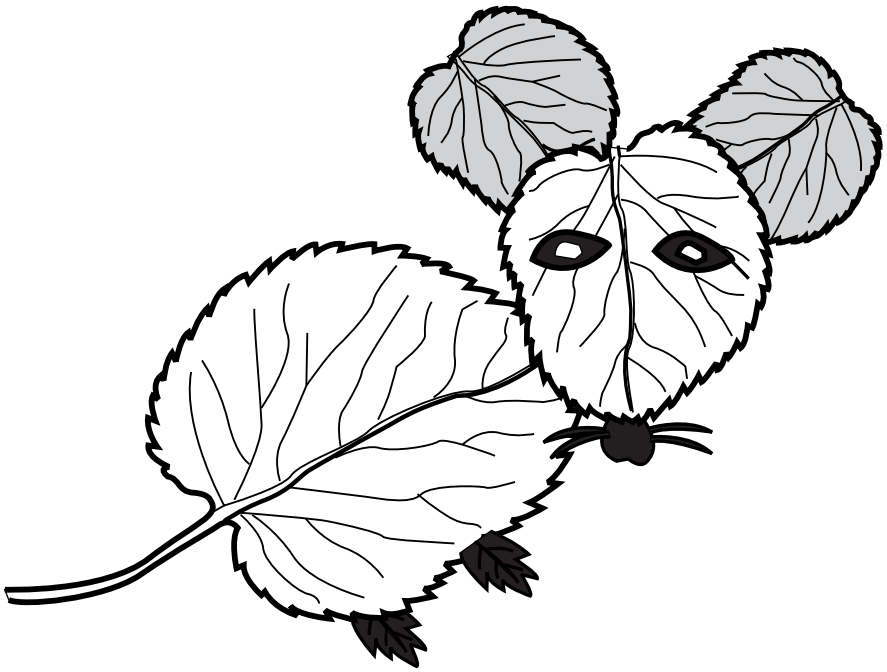


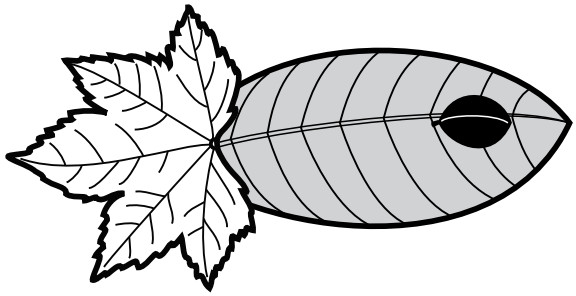


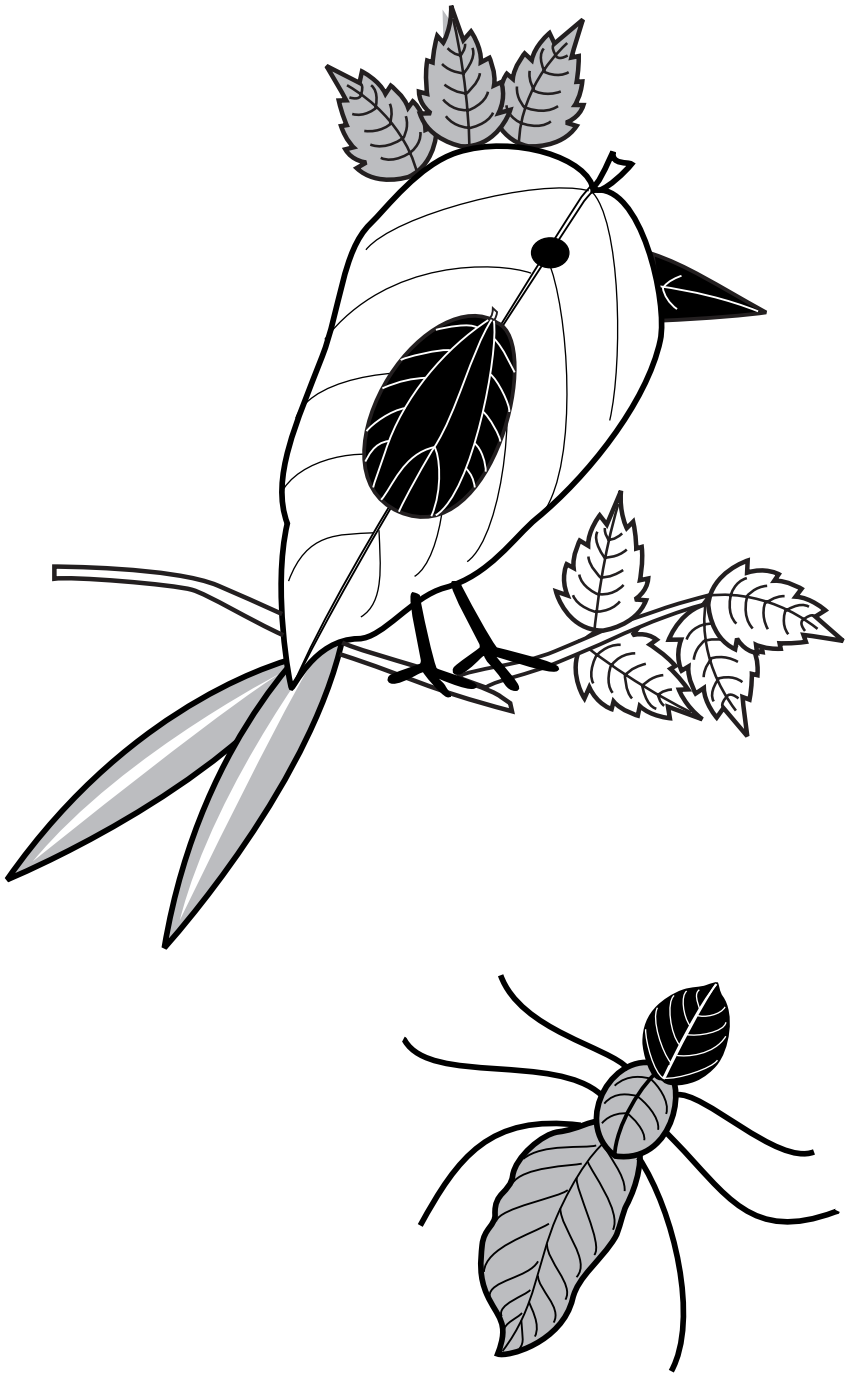


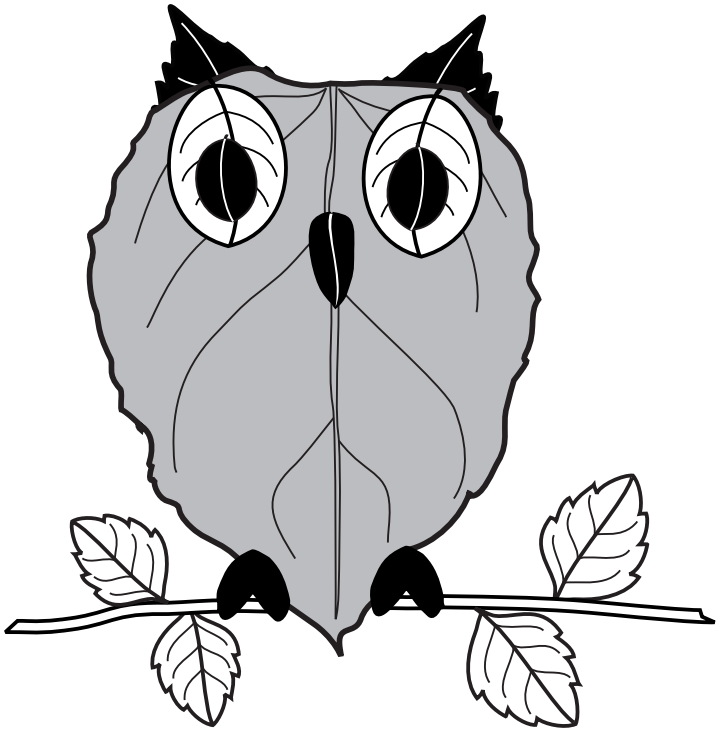


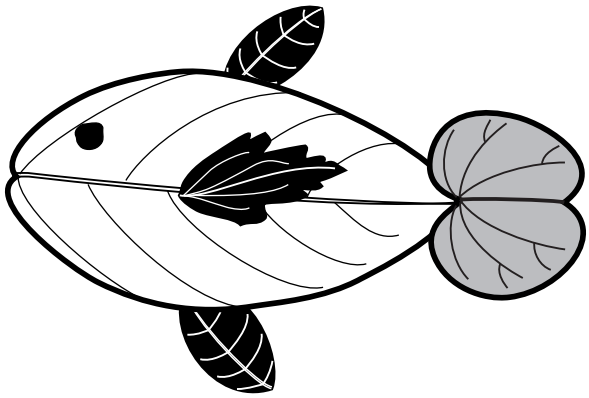


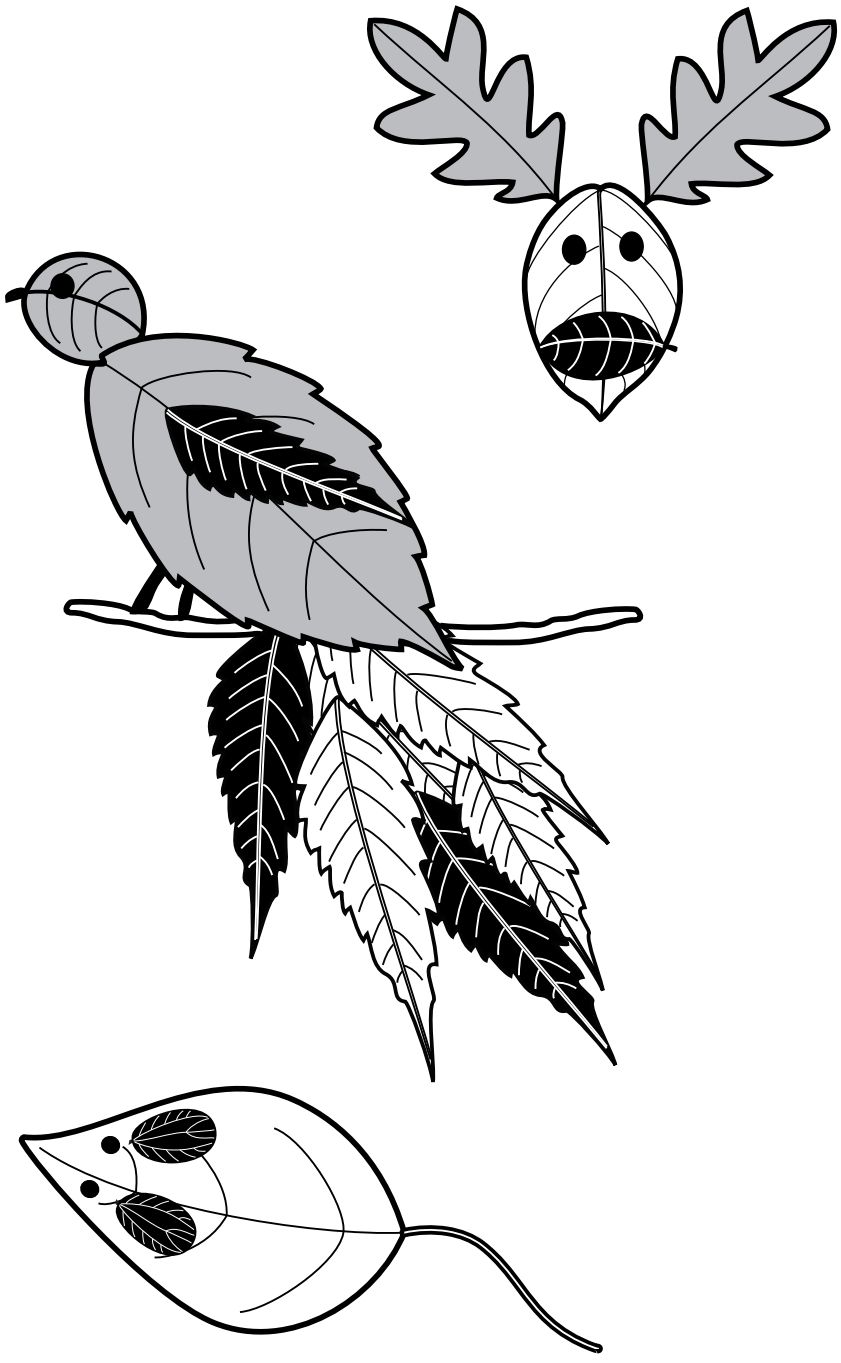


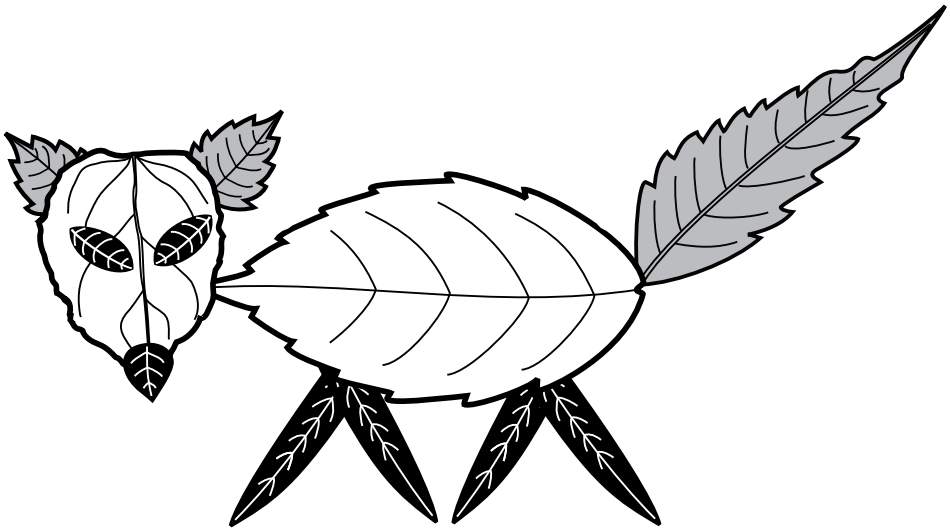


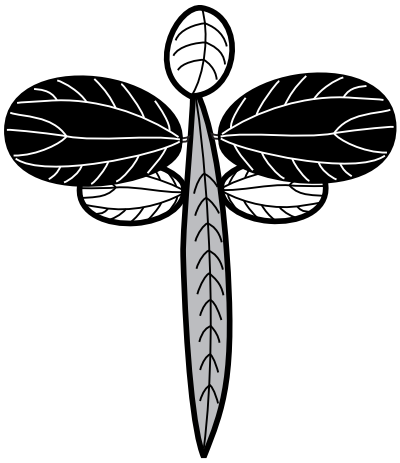


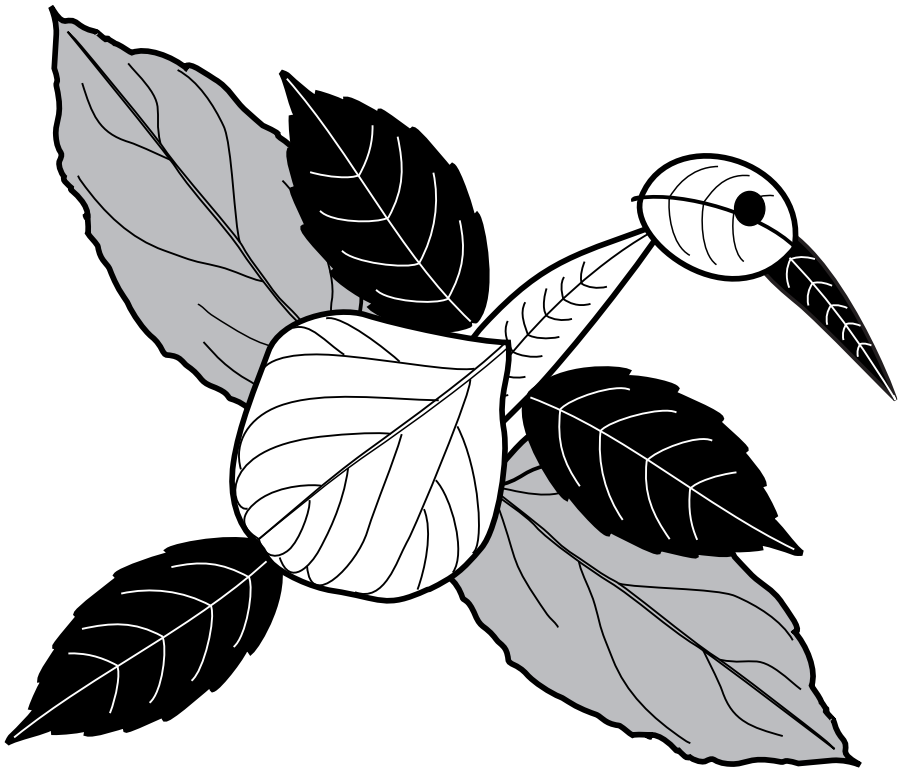


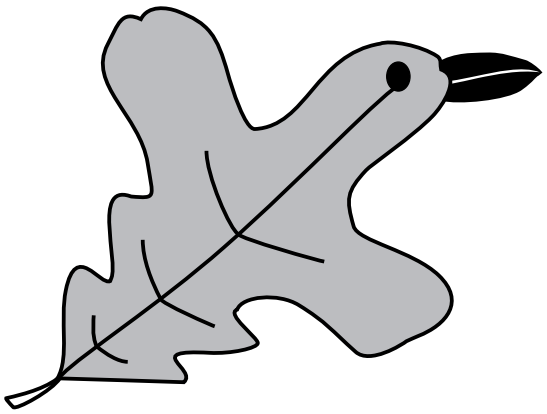


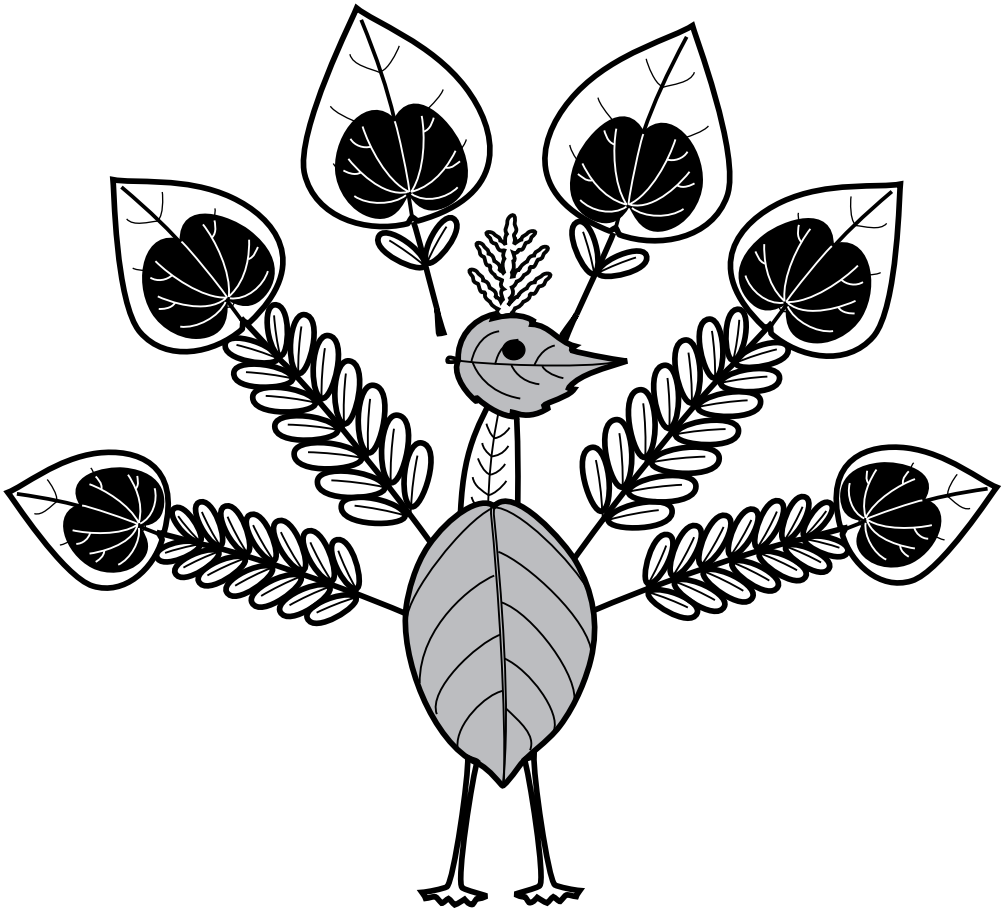


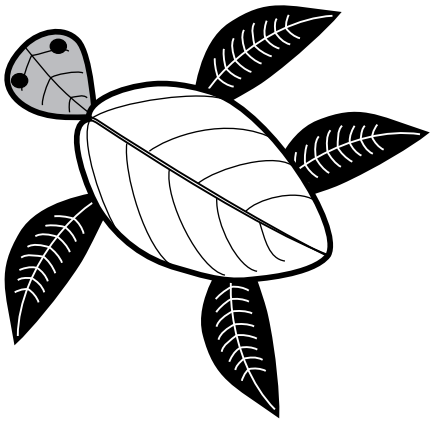


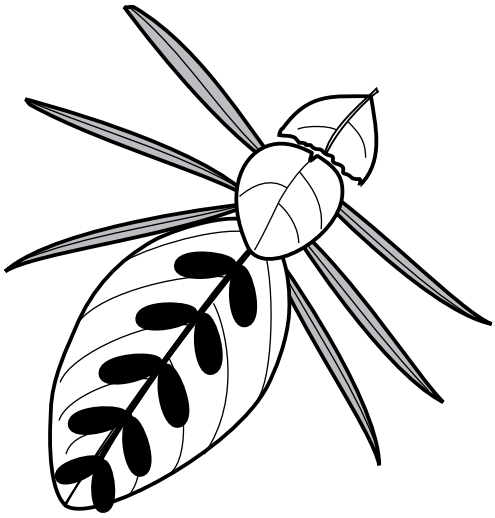


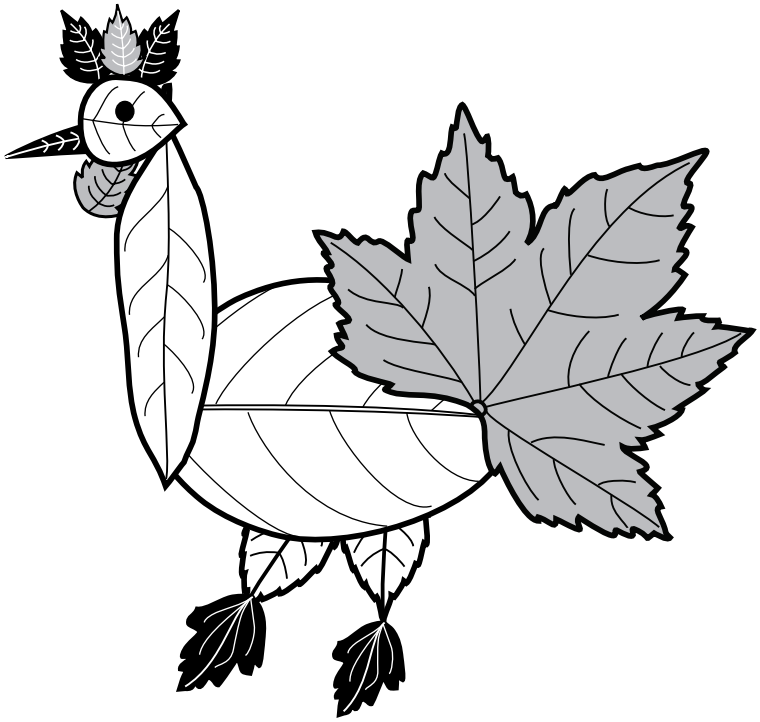


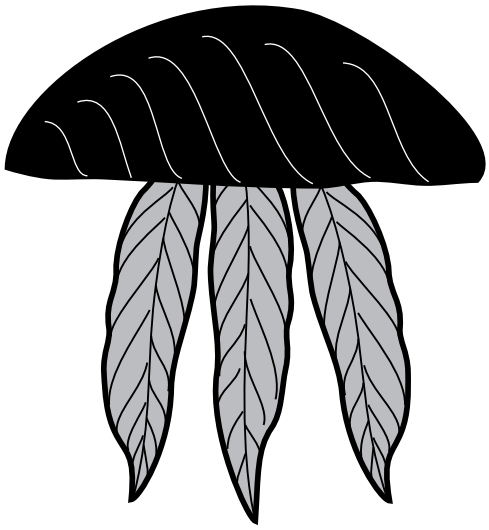


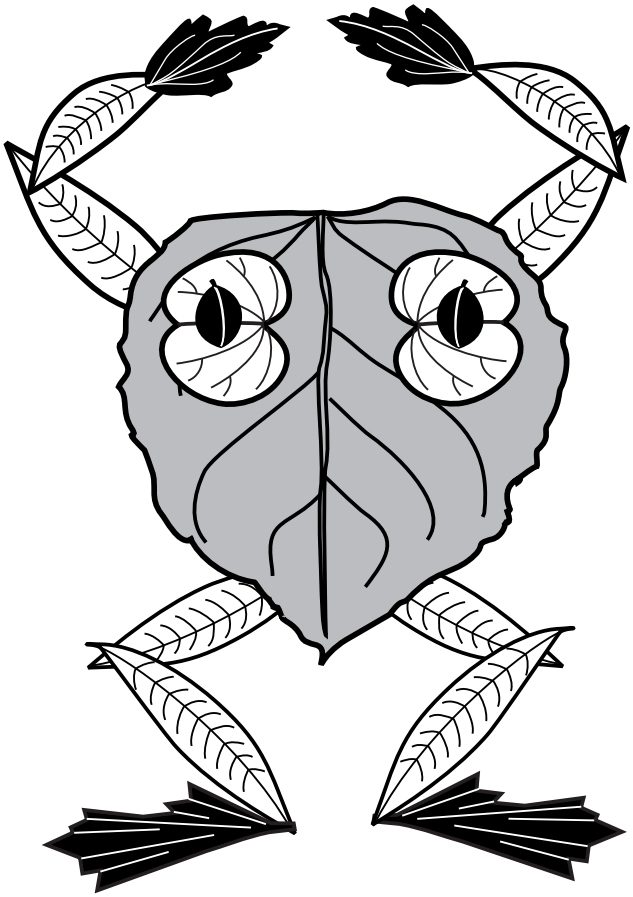


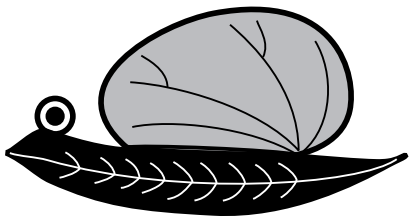


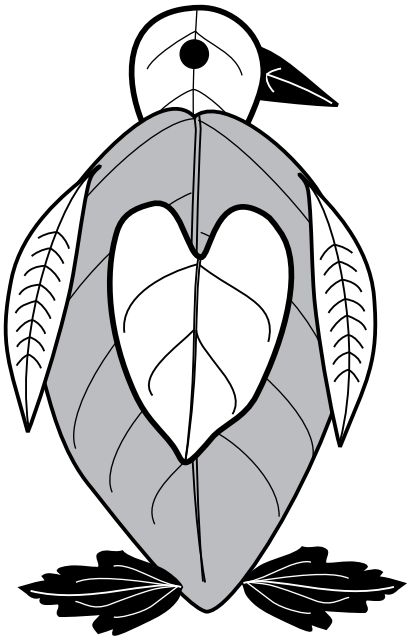


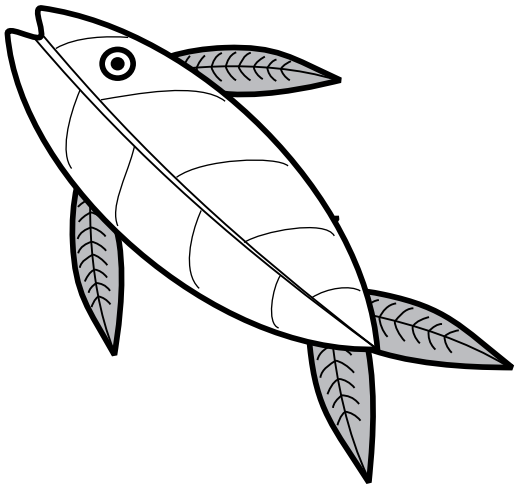


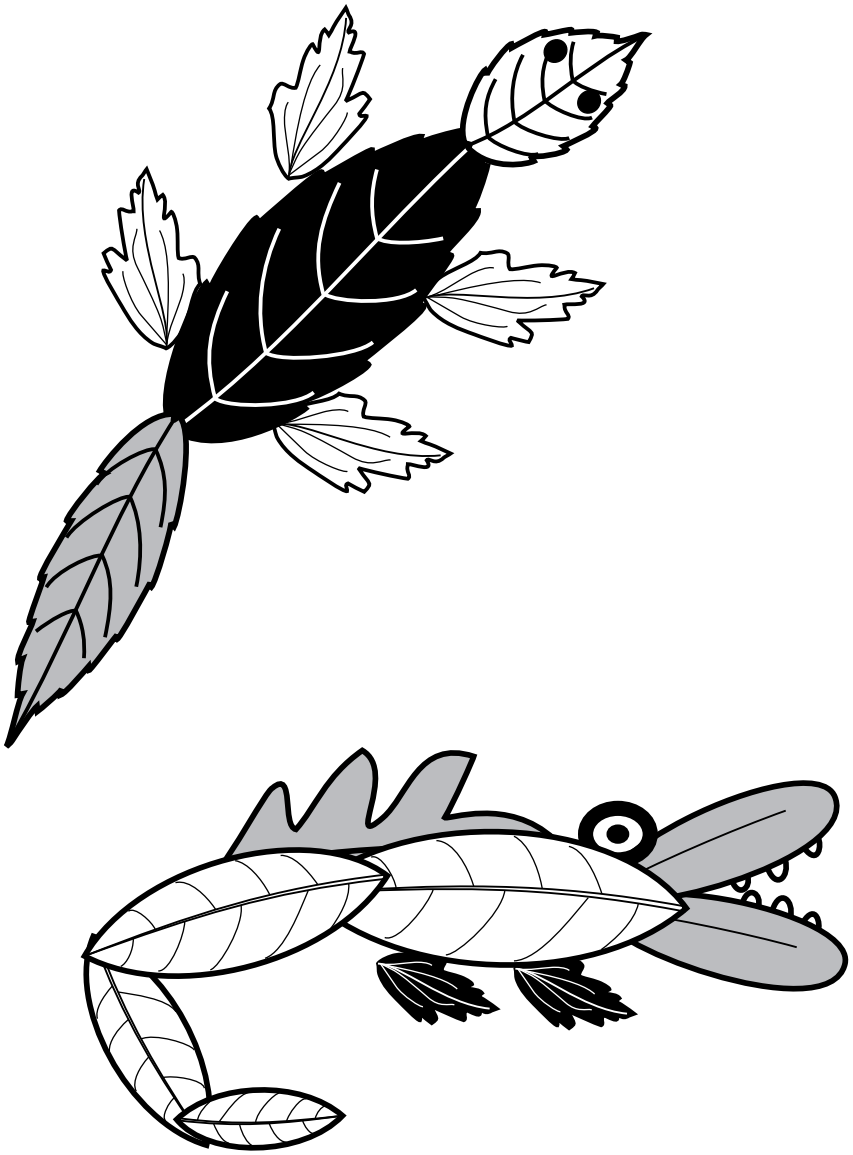


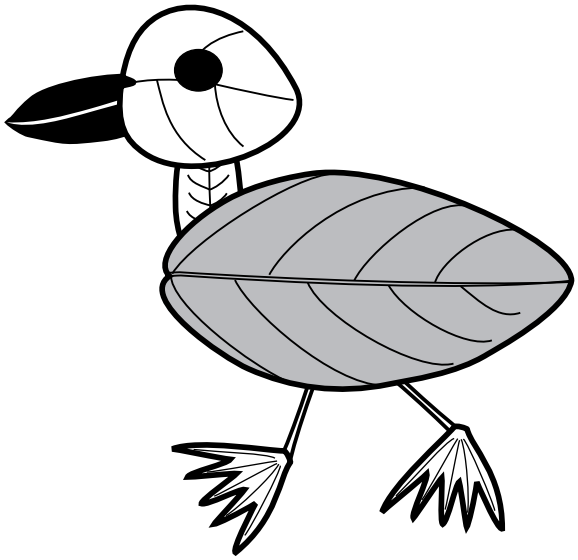


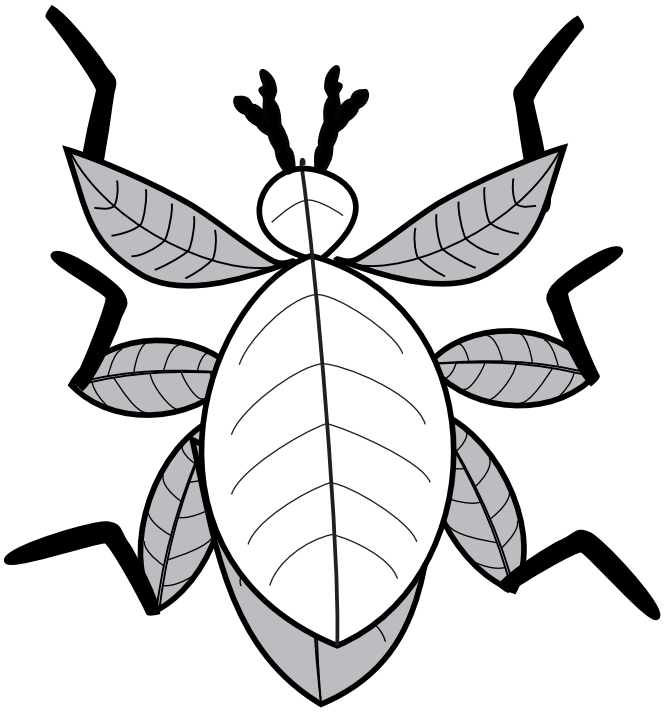


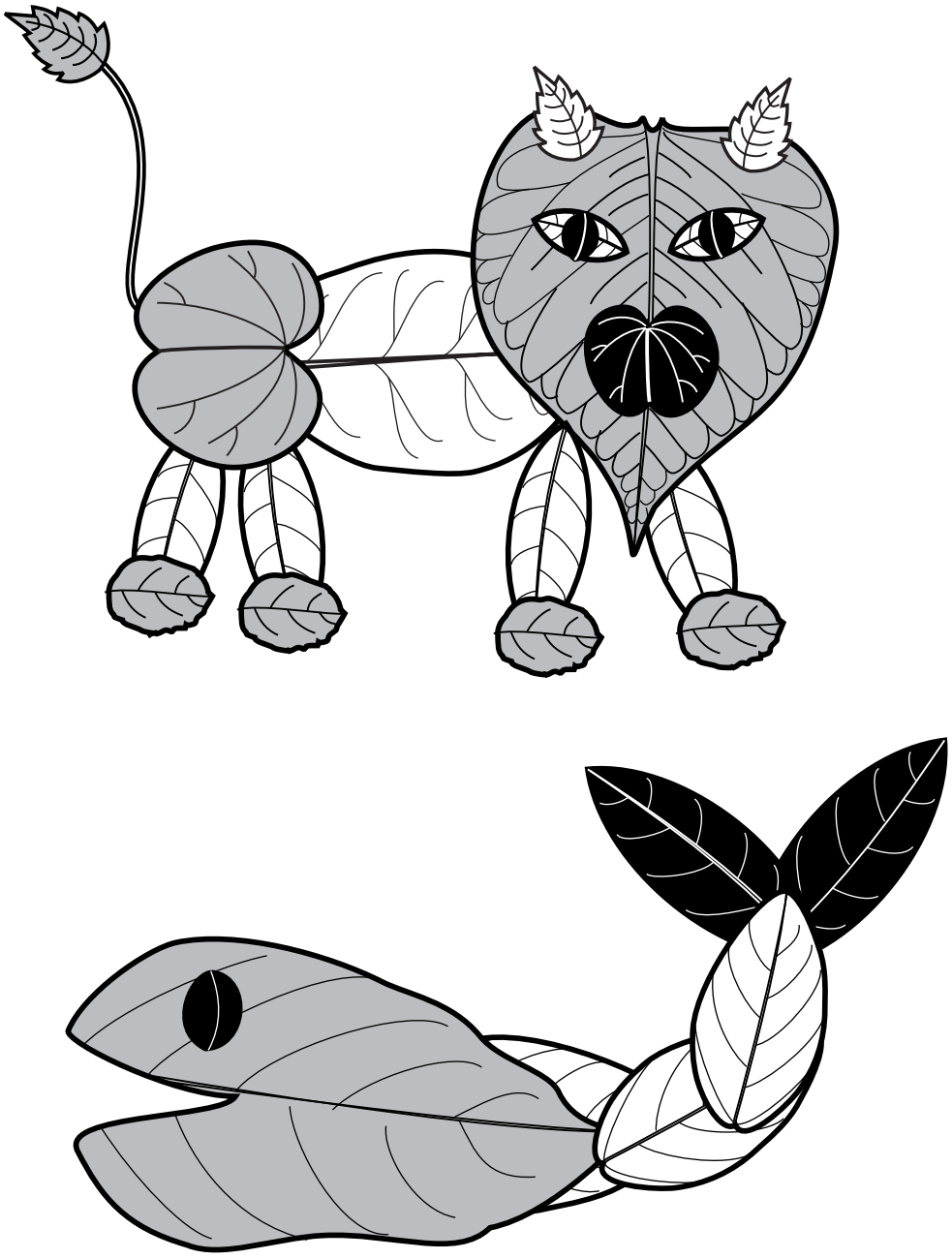


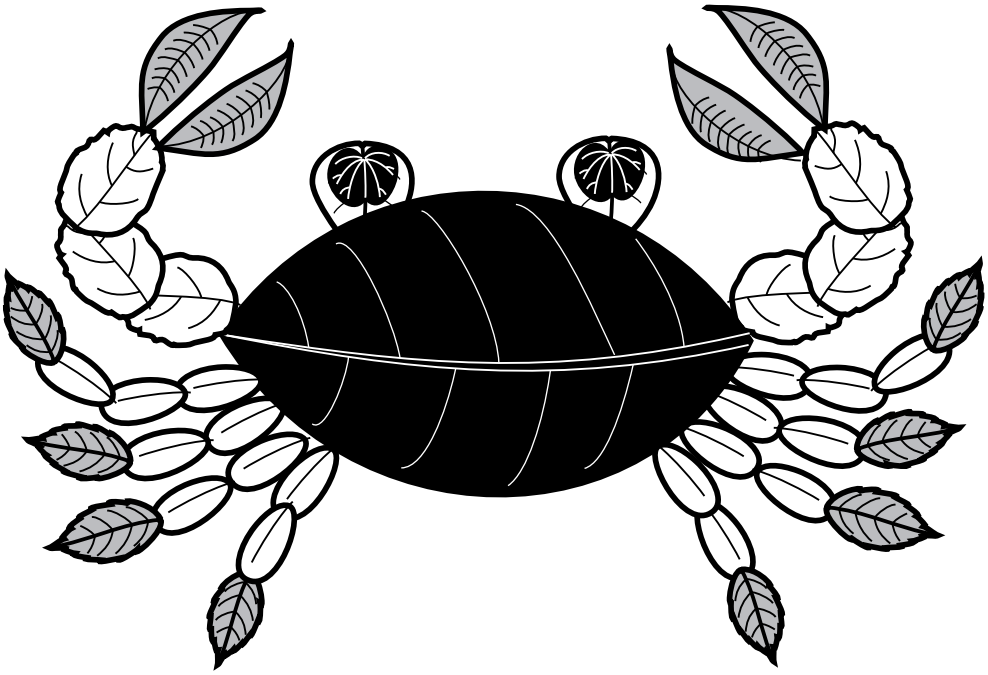


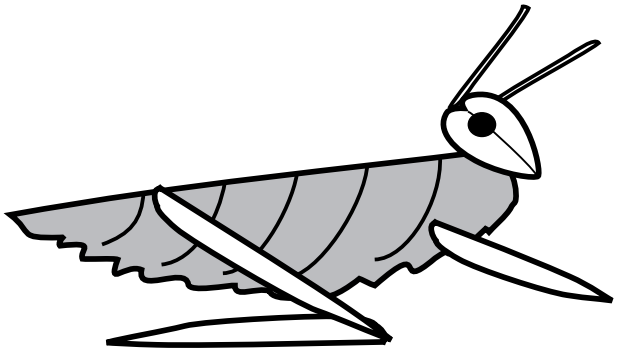


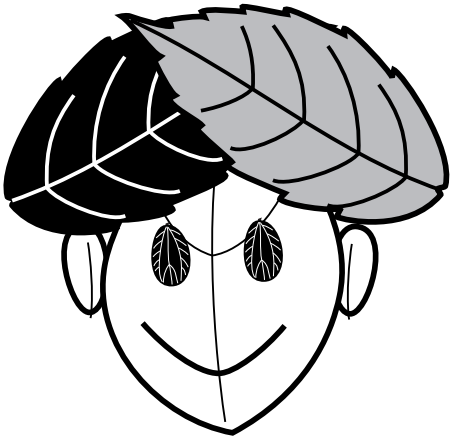


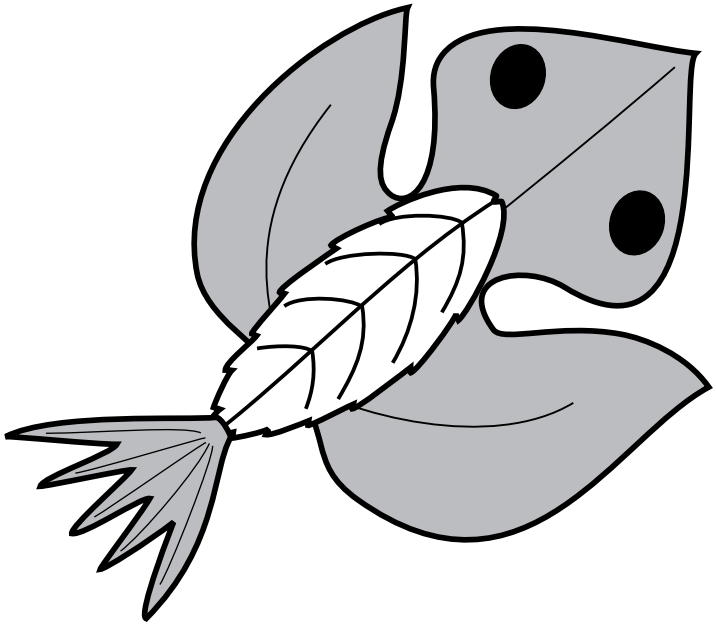


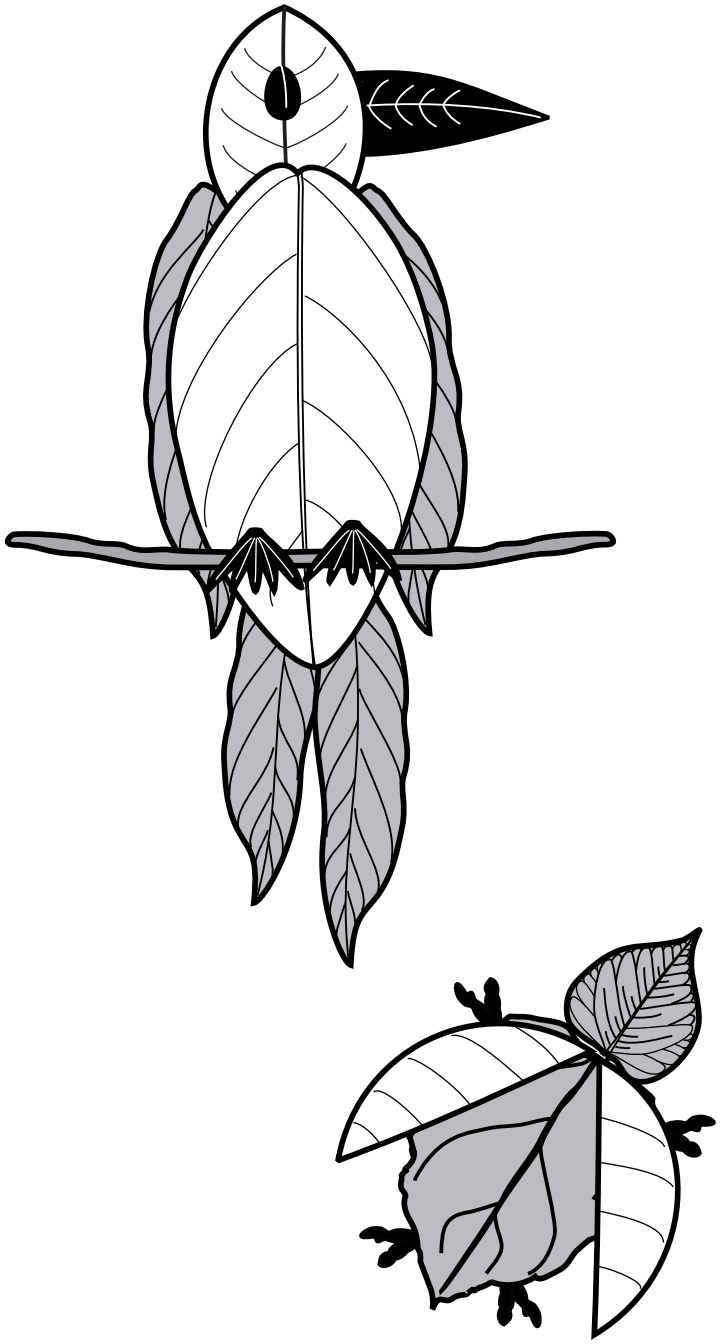


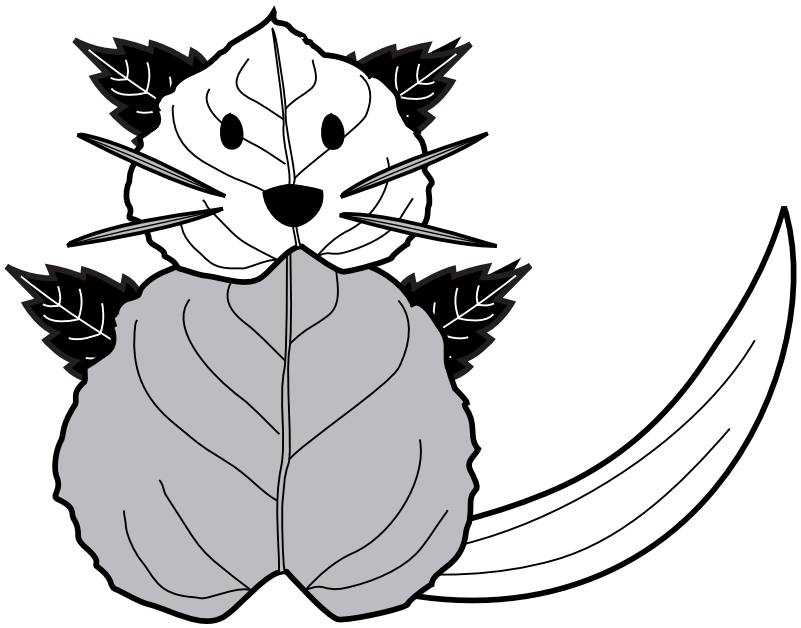


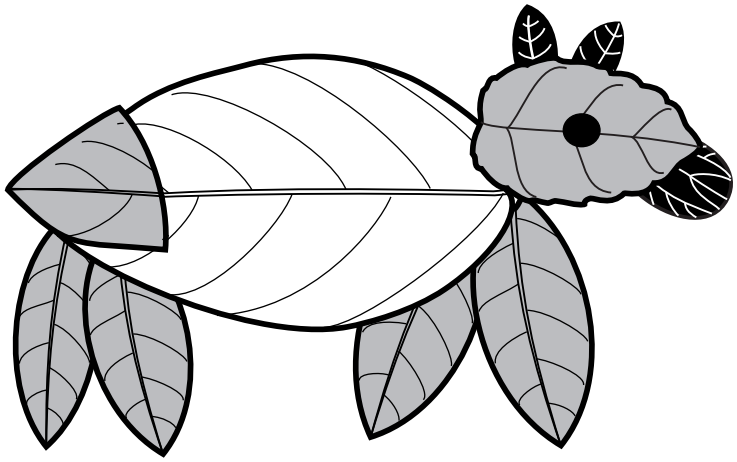


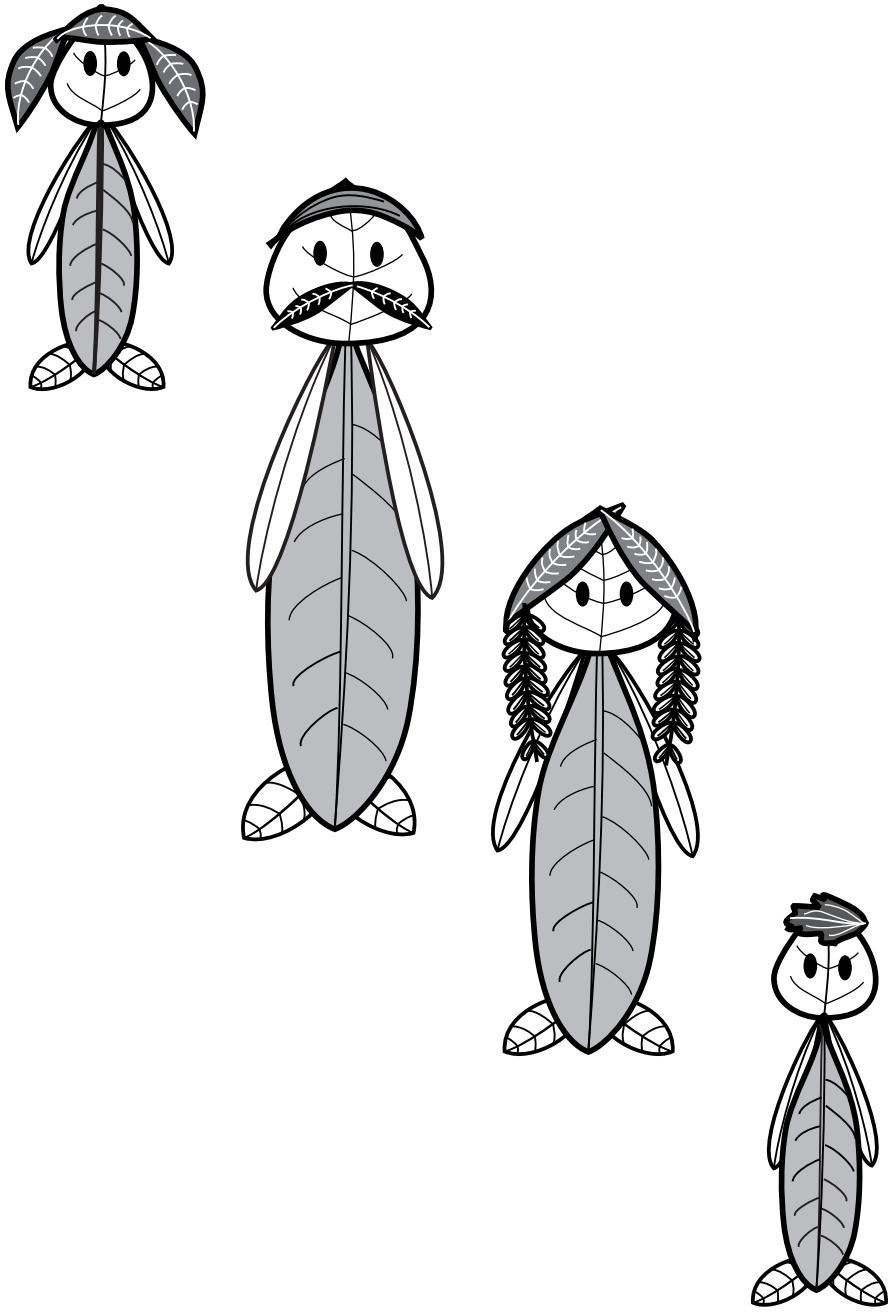


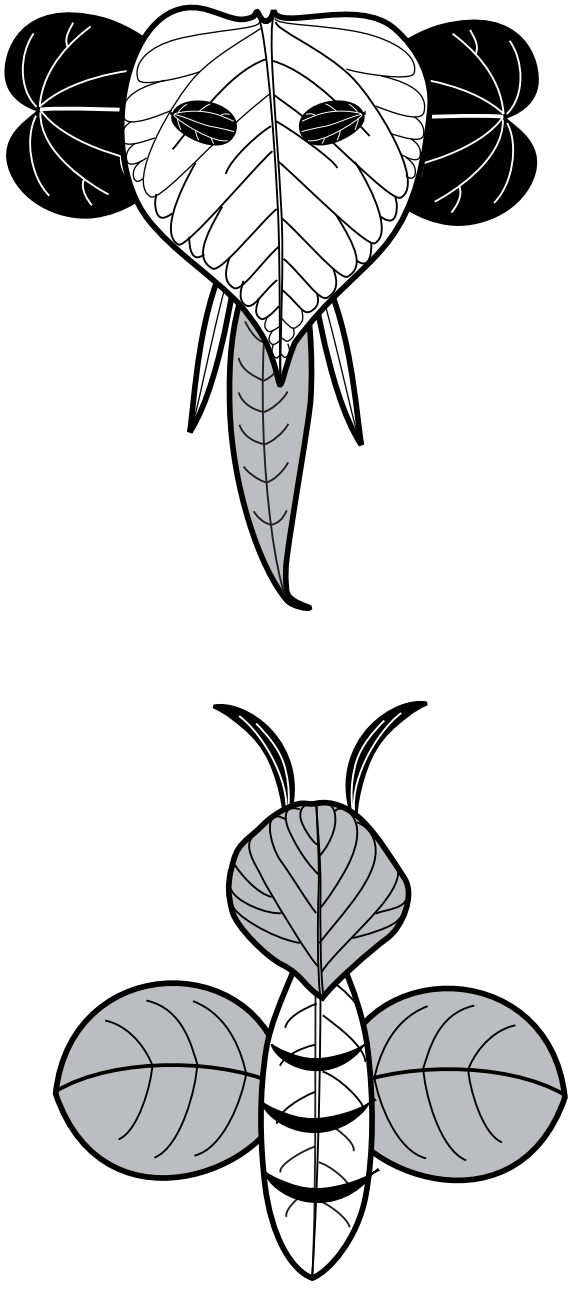


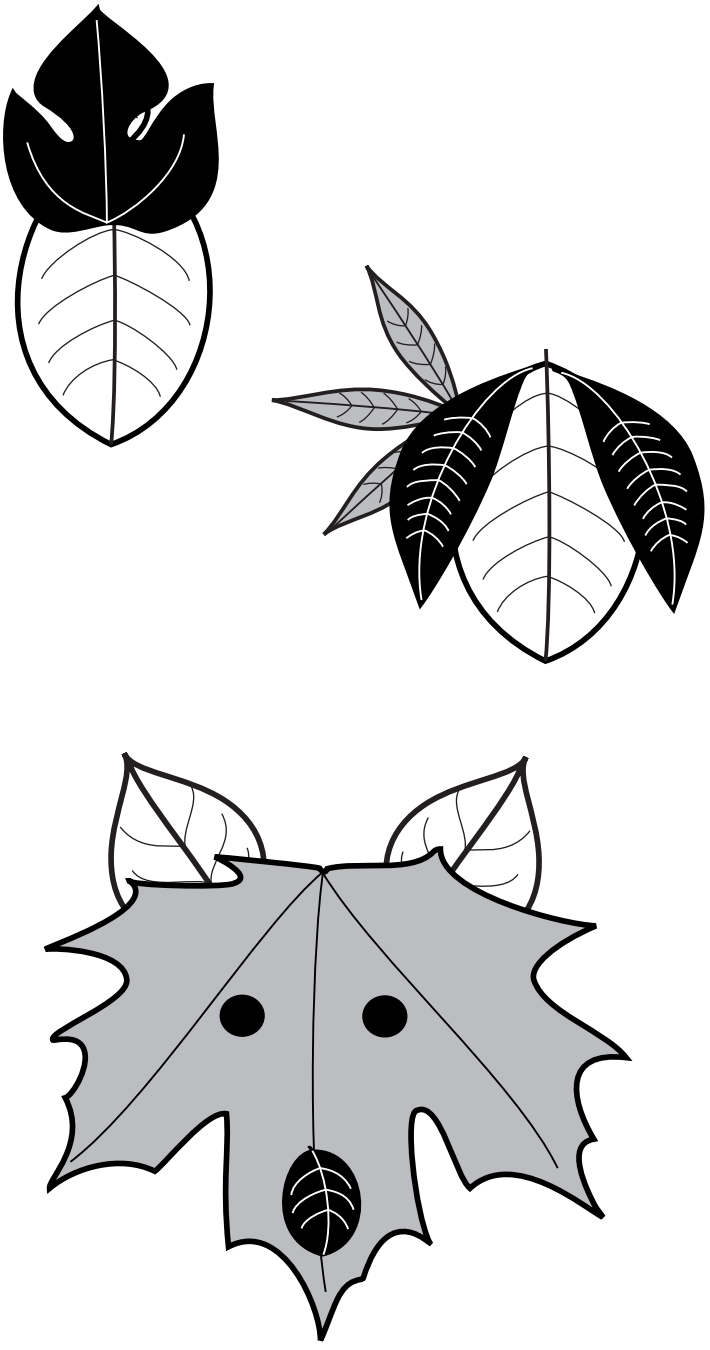


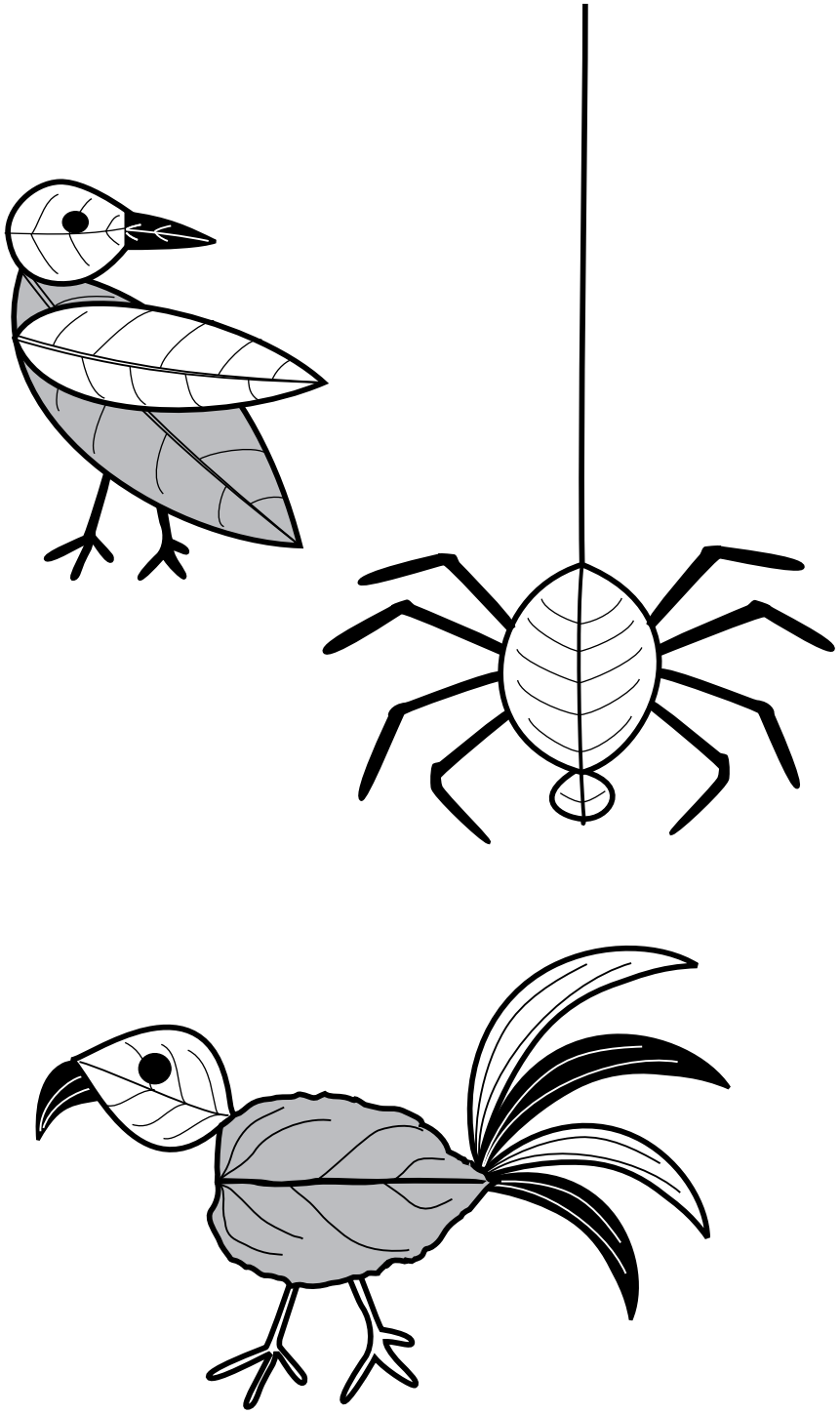


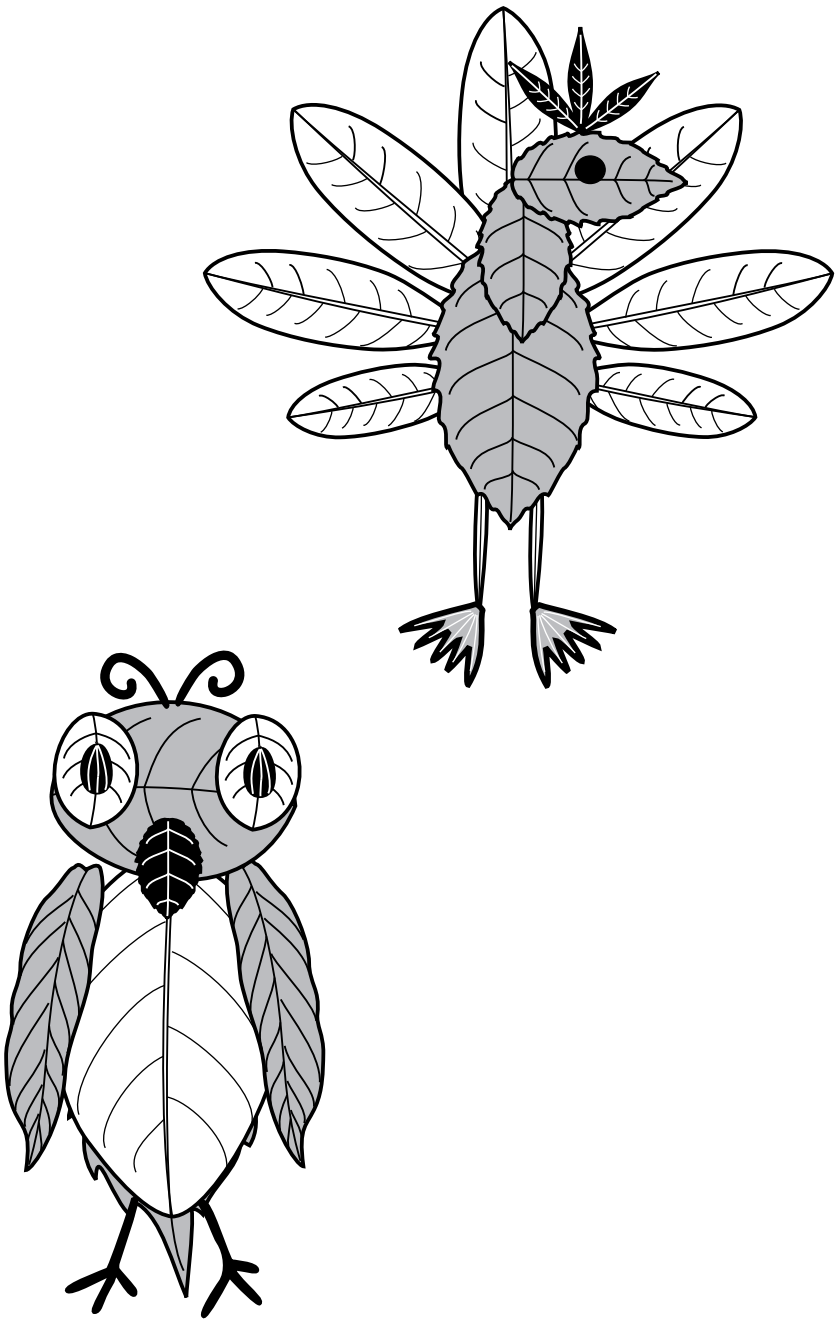


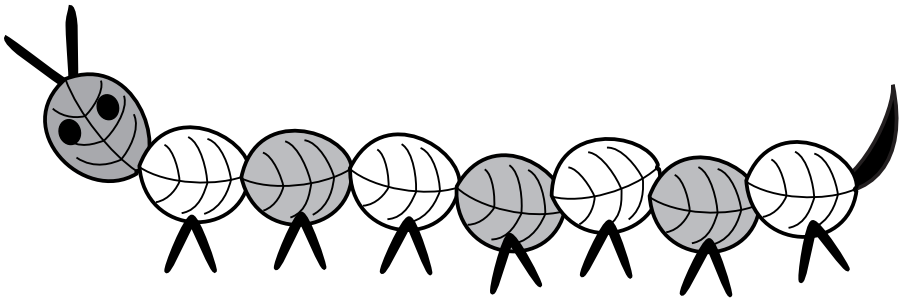


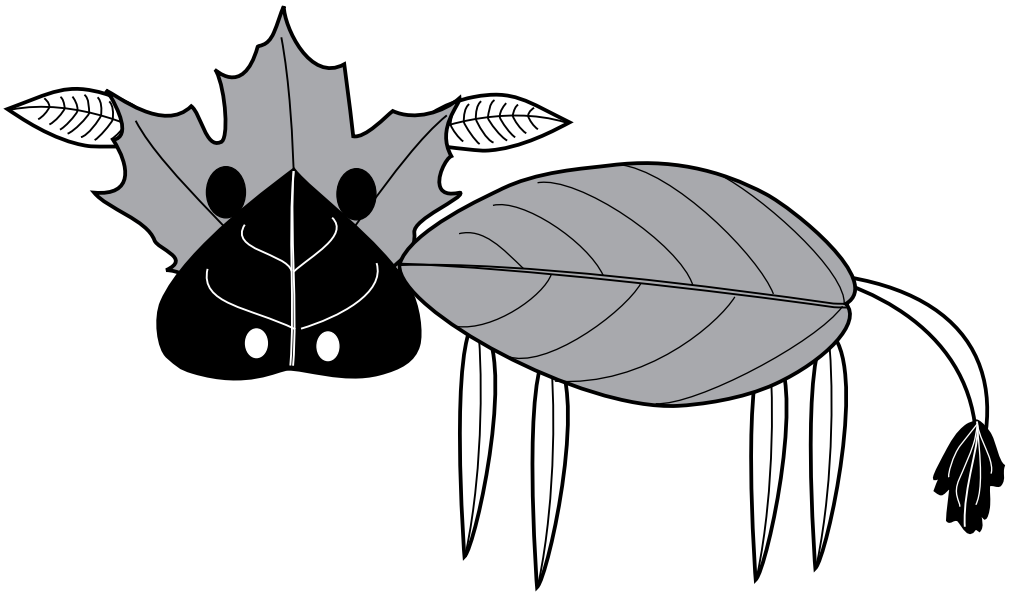


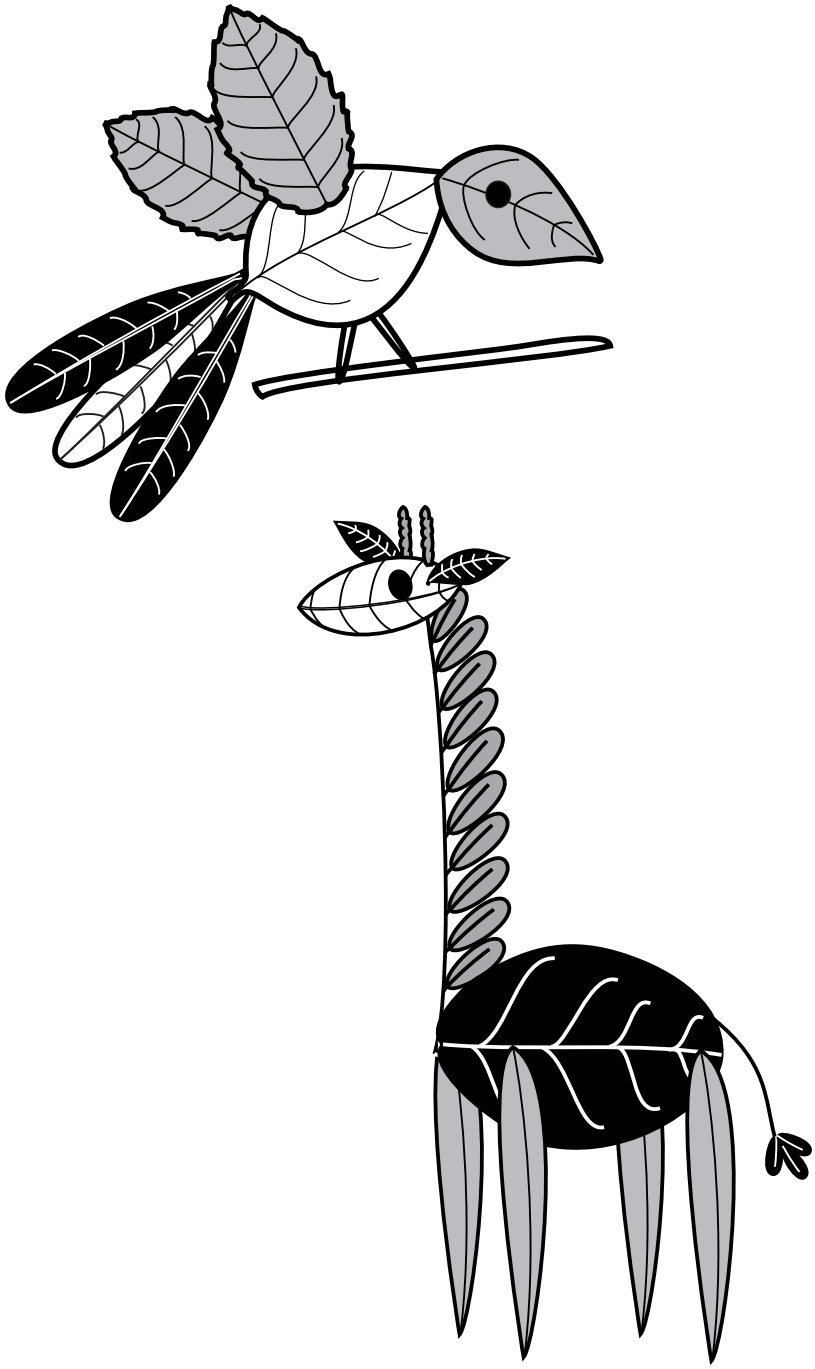


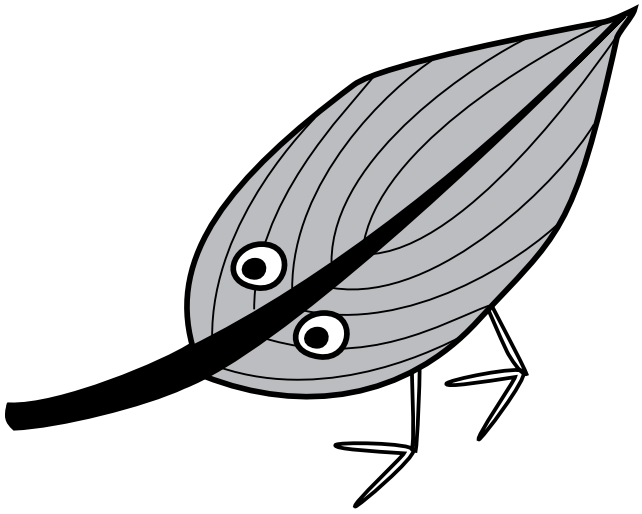


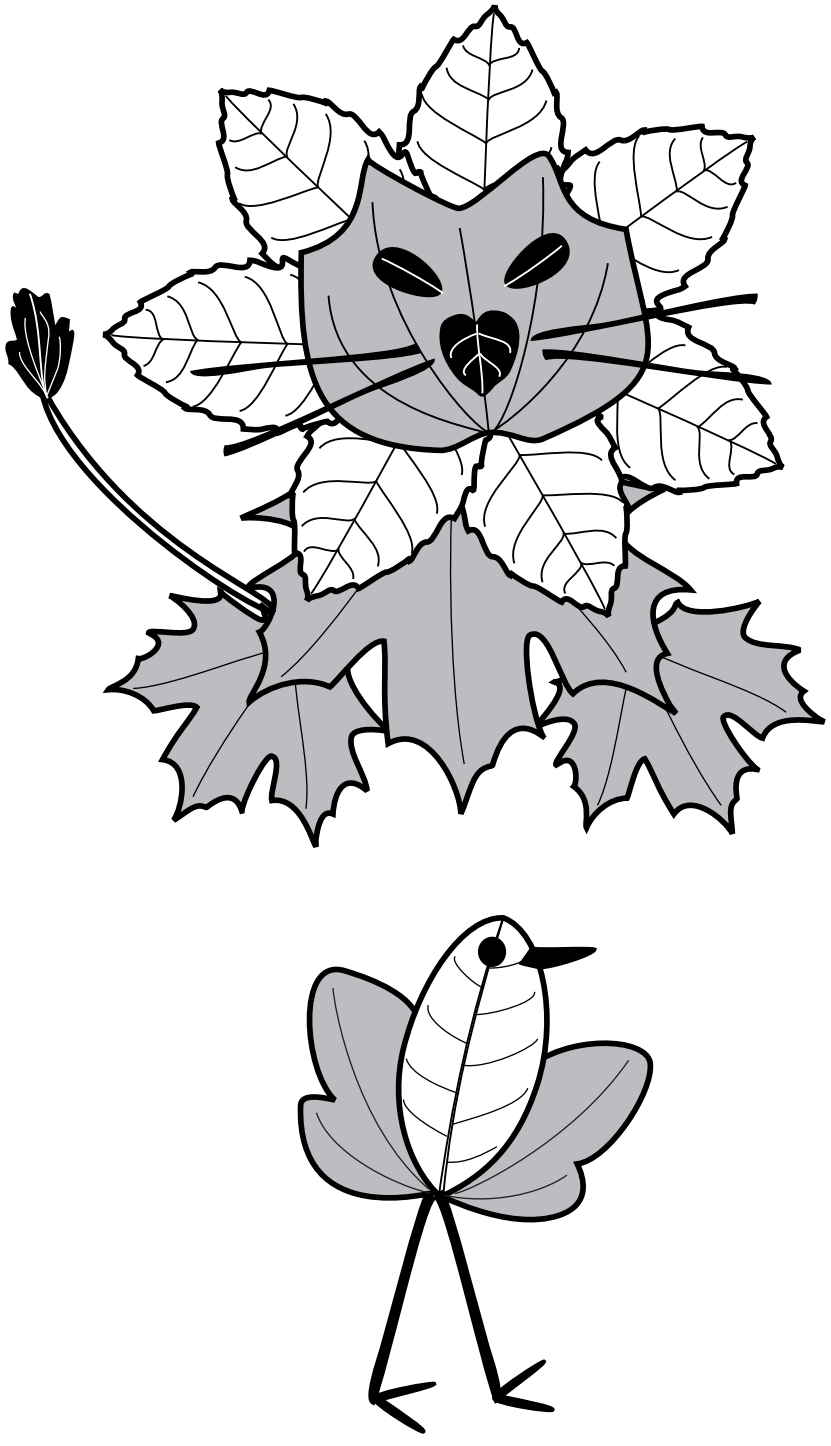


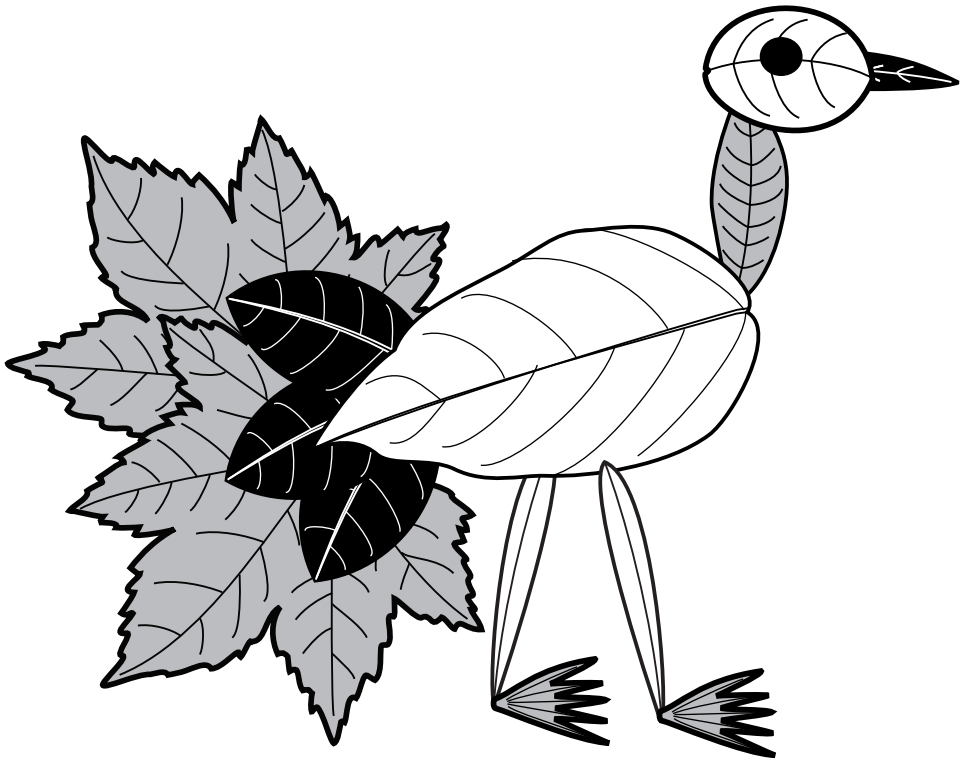


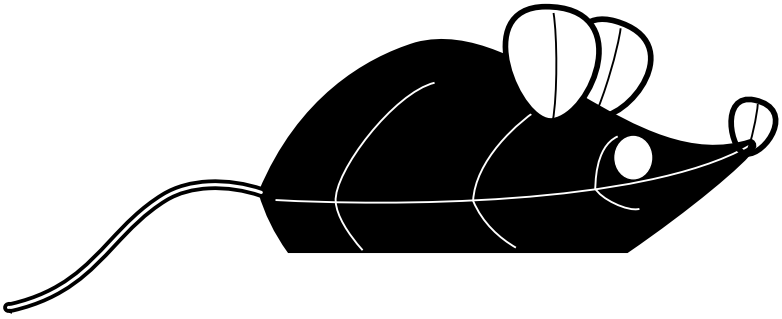




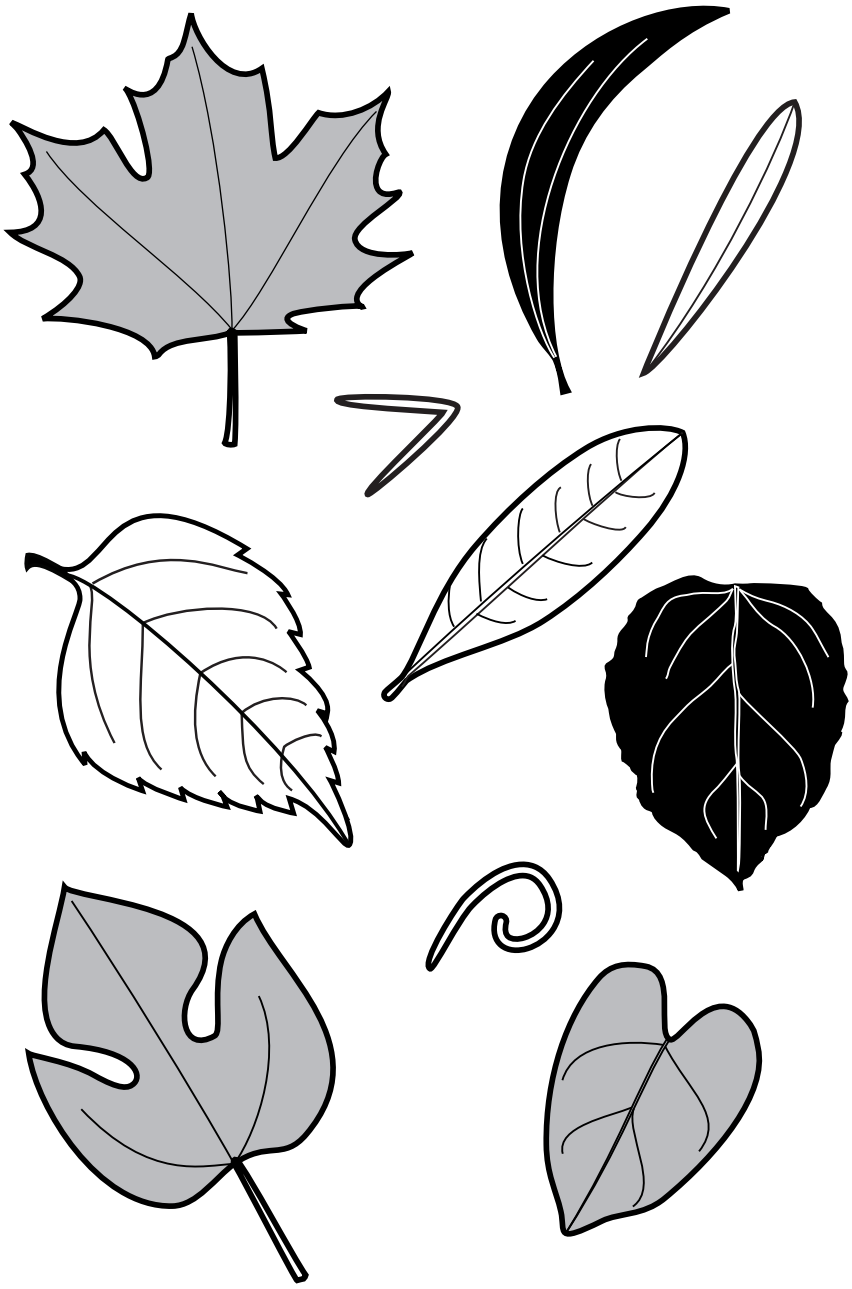
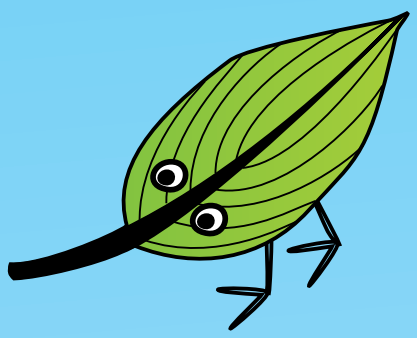








Library of Leaves



Do not pluck leaves but collect fallen leaves. Place them between layers of old newspapers. Then place some heavy old books on top. After a few days the leaves will become dry and flat like paper. Soon you will have a wonderful library of leaves – of various shapes, sizes and hues. Play with the leaves. The big ones will become the stomach – the small one the feet and eyes. The long ones become the legs. As you play with dried leaves numerous animals will spring forth. This book only suggests a few possibilities with the hope that you will discover many-many more!